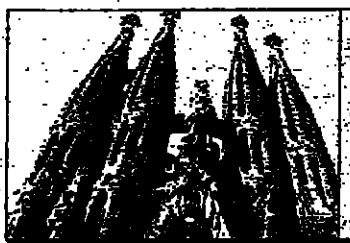
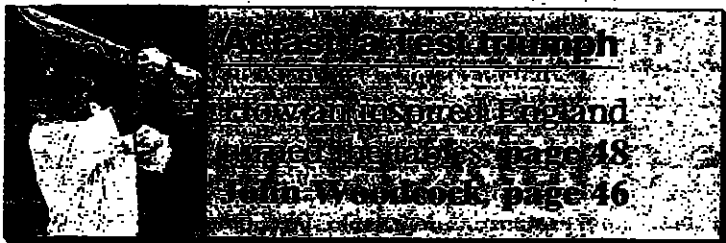


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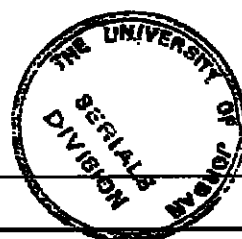
20p bonus breaks
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Smack of firm conviction
Nigella Lawson on why there are no good reasons for hitting children, page 18

20P

THE TIMES



No. 65,178

TUESDAY JANUARY 31 1995

Ministers close ranks on Europe

I am today's man, Hurd tells critics

By Philip Webster, Nicholas Wood and George Brock

DOUGLAS HURD struggled yesterday to restore his authority and contain a fresh outbreak of Conservative turmoil over Europe by dismissing fears that he would be forced out of the Cabinet and replaced by a Euro-sceptic.

The Foreign Secretary fought back against right-wing claims that he was a "yesterday's man", saying that he was today's man and could see a good many tomorrows.

But even as Mr Hurd tried to calm fractious Tory MPs there was new evidence of the Cabinet's stronger Euro-sceptic line, and signs that a pro-European counter-attack headed by Lord Howe of Aberavon and Sir Edward Heath was destined to fail.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Defence Secretary, who would be a candidate to succeed Mr Hurd, reflected the Cabinet shift with a speech in Brussels rejecting further moves towards federalism.

At the same time officials said that John Major rejected the claims of Lord Howe, Foreign Secretary under Margaret Thatcher, that the Government risked "losing its position in the minds of the British people" if the Prime Minister remained a hostage to the sceptics.

In a further development that will please the Right, it emerged that Mr Major had no quarrel with Michael Portillo's statement of the areas where the Prime Minister would use Britain's veto at next year's "Maastricht 2" inter-governmental conference. In remarks that upset the Tory Left, Mr Portillo said at the weekend that the Cabinet meeting last Thursday had unanimously decided that the veto would be used to block increased powers for the European Parliament and an extension of majority voting.

Mr Hurd was determined yesterday to regain the initiative after claims that he was

German block on Eurofighter

A German parliamentary committee is refusing to release more money for development of the Eurofighter and work on the £34 billion project may be halted.

Roger Freeman, the Defence Procurement Minister, is to meet the national armaments directors of the four nations building the aircraft. A defence source said: "The minister intends to bang some heads together." — Page 12

being sidelined by the apparently growing band of Euro-sceptic ministers. He staged an impromptu news conference on the steps of the Foreign Office, insisting that he was pushing through a "hard-headed" policy on Europe in line with the Prime Minister and the Cabinet, and would continue to do so "for the foreseeable future".

The Foreign Secretary is understood to be in no mood to step down. To bolster his position, Mr Hurd's allies and Downing Street emphasised that he was in charge of the Cabinet committee process formulating Britain's line for the conference next year.

Mr Hurd dismissed talk of a Cabinet split and spelt out the tough line on Europe to be deployed by the Government to defend its position next year. He said the Government would fight to protect British authority in the Council of Ministers and demand that the member states' veto in key areas was maintained. But there was a slight difference of emphasis with Mr Portillo when he said Britain would oppose "massive" — as opposed to all — increases in the powers of the European Parliament. Mr Hurd added: "This is a common-sense

hard-headed approach, which arises out of Britain's interests. We believe this time we can make this persuasive to many on the Continent."

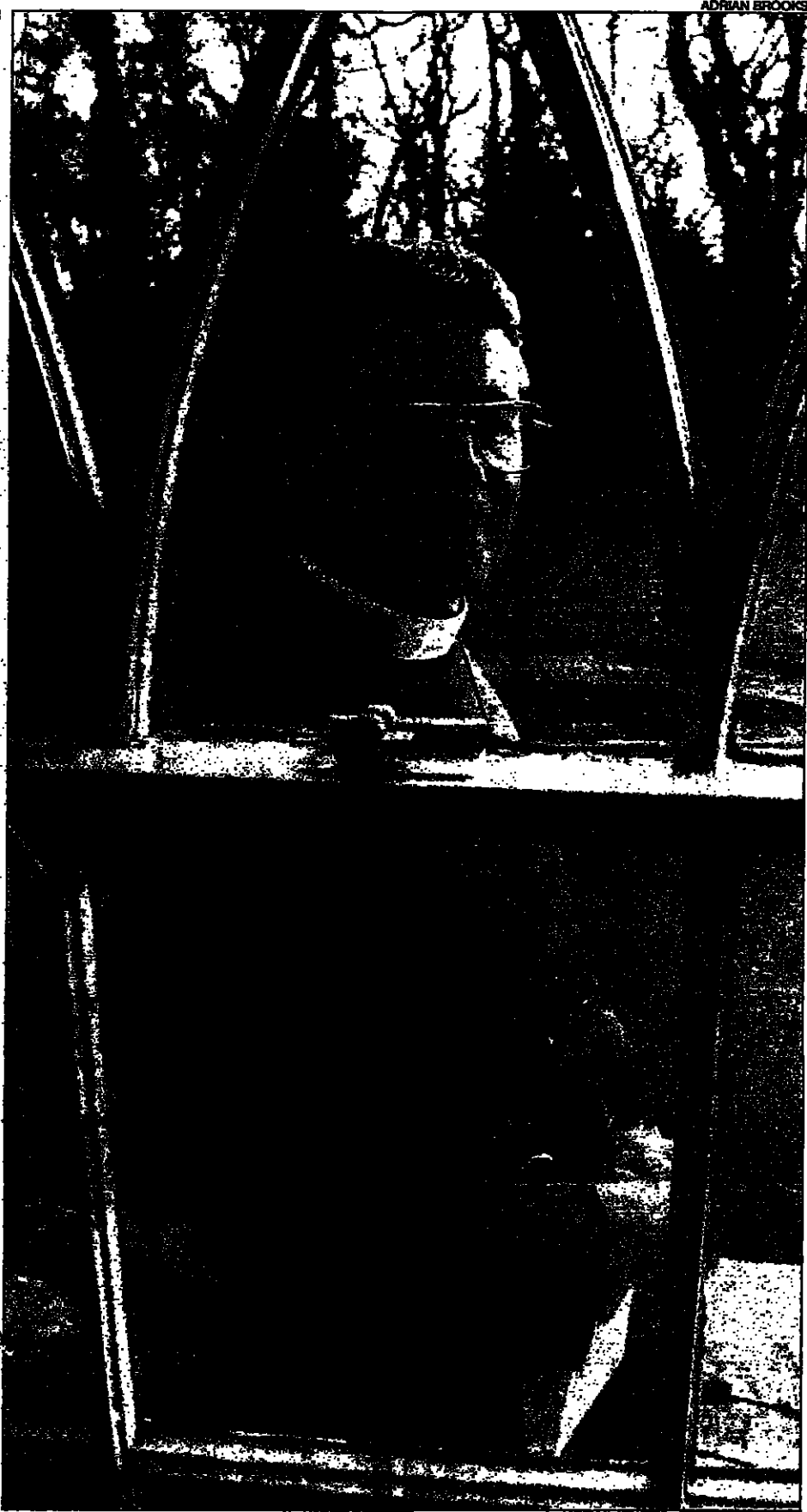
The Right continued to revel in Mr Hurd's discomfort. Teresa Gorman, one of the "whipless" rebels, said that he was a fine politician "but as far as Europe is concerned he is yesterday's man". The Billericay MP said: "He is peddling ideas that may be important to the Foreign Office or even within the European Councils, but they have no contact point with the grassroots of the natural supporters of the Tory party."

Meizies Campbell, the Liberal Democrat Foreign Affairs Spokesman, said that Mr Hurd's position would be "fatally undermined" unless he won full backing from the Prime Minister. "Hardly a day goes by but Mr Hurd is compromised, condemned or contradicted by some section of his party — ambitious members of the Cabinet are falling over themselves to clamber aboard the Euro-sceptic bus and leave Mr Hurd isolated."

In a further sign of the Government's hostility towards further European integration, Mr Rifkind explicitly rejected the call by Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission, for a new leap towards a federal Europe. But he denied the Government had "hardened" its stance on Europe.

The Defence Secretary told the Royal Institute of International Relations that the new Europe would not "be built on the federalist ambitions of the 1950s and 1960s. The time for that kind of ideological debate has indeed past." The nation — Continued on page 2, col 6

Politics, page 11
Malcolm Rifkind, page 20
Leading article and letters, page 21



Bishop resigning to become a monk

The Bishop of Portsmouth, Rt Rev Timothy Davin (above), announced yesterday that he is resigning in the autumn to become a novice monk at an Anglican Benedictine monastery at Alton, Hampshire. "After 10 years in Portsmouth

and 20 years as diocesan bishop, the time has come to lay down my responsibilities," he said. The bishop said he had discussed his plan with the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1993, and vehemently denied that it had any connection

with his being included in a list of homosexual clergy by the gay rights group Outrage two months ago — an allegation that had "deeply hurt and distressed" him.

Report, page 3

Dutch flee as floods threaten thousands of homes

By Our Foreign Staff

THE NETHERLANDS yesterday prepared the biggest civilian evacuation for 40 years as rising rivers threatened tens of thousands of people in the Gelderland province in the east of the country.

Roads were clogged as thousands of cars, buses and army lorries headed out of the stricken area.

No Dutch deaths have been reported as a result of torrential rains over the past week, but there have been at least 25 in France, Belgium and Germany.

At Lobith, on the Rhine, officials said the water level had risen to 54ft — 1in above sea level. The record was 55ft 6in in 1926, when thousands drowned.

The latest evacuation brought to 80,000 the total number of people on the move in the south and east of the Netherlands.

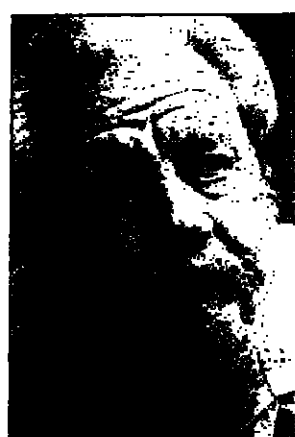
More than 12,000 people had already left their homes in the southern province of Limburg where the waters of the Maas spilled into a 90-mile strip of land.

Torrential rains have also forced the evacuation of tens of thousands of people in other parts of northeastern Europe. In Britain, the wettest January for half a century is set to end with further rain and flooding (Robin Young writes).

January has already asserted itself a place in the record books as the wettest ever known in parts of south-east England.

Provisional figures released by the Meteorological Office yesterday showed that an average 14mm had fallen in England and Wales so far this month, compared with the existing record of 178mm in 1948.

Flood of century, page 14
Photograph and Forecast, page 24



Durrell: campaign for endangered species

Naturalist Gerald Durrell dies at 70

By Alan Hamilton

GERALD DURRELL, the writer and naturalist who endeared himself to a generation as the author of *My Family and Other Animals*, died in hospital in Jersey yesterday, aged 70. Friends said he had never fully recovered from a liver transplant operation last year.

Durrell, who founded Jersey Zoo in 1959 and won an international reputation for his campaigning on behalf of endangered species, died with Lee, his wife, and Jeremy Mallinson, his zoo director, at his bedside.

A prolific maker of television wildlife films and the author of more than 30 books, beginning with *The Overloaded Ark* in 1953, Durrell was appointed an OBE in 1983 for his wildlife conservation work.

Born in India in 1925 as the younger son of a civil engineer, he was brought up in England and Corfu, and began his working life as a trainee keeper at Whipsnade zoo in Bedfordshire.

Charles Secret, director of Friends of the Earth, said last night: "He was one of the first people to wake the world up to what was happening to the environment."

Obituary, page 23

Commons hails triumph in Test

By Geoff King

MPs added their voices yesterday to celebrations of England's dramatic victory over Australia in the Fourth Test in Adelaide.

Iain Sprouat, the Sports Minister, congratulated the side for their "absolutely magnificent" performance in winning by 106 runs, England's first away win against the old enemy for eight years. Derby

colleagues Phillip DeFreitas and Devon Malcolm set up a victory which had seemed unlikely when England began the final day. DeFreitas crashed 88 runs, including two sixes, from 95 balls to give England a lead of 262.

An opening bowling onslaught from Malcolm captured three wickets in 12 deliveries as Australia's batsmen collapsed first to 23 for 4 and then to 83 for 8 before being all out for 156.

During exchanges in the Commons, Mr Sprouat congratulated team captain Mike Atherton "on the confidence that he has shown".

John Woodcock, page 46
Match report, page 48

Infections sweep country

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

BRITAIN is wheezing through a severe bout of what may feel like influenza, but is not. Many people claiming to have had flu are more likely to have been suffering respiratory infections, which are at their highest level since 1969. The number of flu cases remains relatively low.

Mycoplasma pneumoniae and respiratory syncytial virus are the two commonest causes of such flu-type illnesses, according to the Public Health Laboratory Service. They can cause potentially dangerous infections, especially in children.

Figures for the end of last year show that the infections were running at about 1,500 cases per 100,000 people and had exceeded the figure for the comparable week in 1989, the last bad year. In children

under four, the rate of acute bronchitis was also high. This may also be caused by the virus.

Infections caused by the virus have now begun to decline, but those caused by *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* are increasing. *M. pneumoniae* infections peak about every four years, and Britain was due for a bad year. In the first three weeks of 1995 the laboratory service had 254 reports of infections, against 46 at the same time last year.

The Public Health Laboratory said: "It is impossible to tell just how many people have these infections. The symptoms can be a bit of a mix. Unless you had a laboratory test, you'd never know that it wasn't flu. But testing hospital samples at some of our sites suggests this year has seen

more cases than at any time since 1989." The large number of virus infections, which appears to have peaked in December, led to some intensive care units having to turn away children. At Whipps Cross Hospital, east London, all routine surgery for children was cancelled for ten days because the paediatric ward was full. The warm weather and poor air quality was blamed by some for the spread of the highly infectious illness.

The virus causes inflammation of the narrow passages of the lungs, which can block with mucus. *M. pneumoniae* is a micro-organism that causes infections of the lower respiratory tract. If untreated the infections can lead to pneumonia, but unlike the viral infections they can be treated by antibiotics.

Algiers car bomb kills 35

A car bomb set off near police headquarters in central Algiers yesterday killed at least 35 people and wounded 154 others.

Security forces blamed the attack on Muslim fundamentalists. An Interior Ministry official said: "Some of the victims are members of the security forces but most are civilians, particularly children."

Page 14

GCHQ emerges from shadows

The most secretive of Britain's three intelligence services, GCHQ, is preparing to emerge from the shadows as it waits to be summoned before the new parliamentary overview committee chaired by Tom King, the former Defence Secretary. — Page 8

Lucky Blackburn leads in league and lottery

By Kate Alderson

BLACKBURN became Britain's lottery-capital yesterday as its second big winner in as many months bagged a hefty jackpot and brought the town's total share of the lottery bounty to well over £20 million.

An unemployed single mother aged 28 who owns neither her own home nor a car won £2.3 million in this

die, who collected her cheque from Camelot, the National Lottery organiser, said her first purchase would be a season ticket to watch Blackburn Rovers, the team that seems to be sharing in the town's luck: it is leading the FA Cup Premiership.

Her win, seven weeks after an Asian factory worker from Blackburn won £17.8 million, has prompted a rush on lottery tickets by those anxious

town's luck. Camelot has estimated that there is a one in 14 million chance of any one person winning the jackpot, but the odds for Blackburn's population of 88,000 might be better. As well as the £17.8 million win in December, other Blackburn winners include Mark and Sarah Sharples, who won £368,000 on January 7, and Anthony Gallager, 51, who was one of the 133 winners who shared

James Robinson, a sales assistant at W H Smith in the town's shopping centre, said the stream of Blackburn winners had led to a surge in ticket sales in recent months. He had served customers who had travelled nearly 50 miles, including one from Liverpool, to buy what they believed to be lucky tickets.

Miss Brindle, whose daughter Leanne, three, picked out her numbers, said

until her sister telephoned her. Her £2,293,628 win was a quarter share of the total jackpot of £9 million. She said: "I have spent a couple of pounds each week on the lottery but have never before won a penny. I have never won anything in my life until this." Camelot said the winning numbers had no regard for geography, although of those that have become public, Blackburn does seem to be

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Mawhinney's accent on plain speaking soothes doubters' nerves

A new junior prosecutor has taken the floor in the O.J. Simpson trial. He is black, cool, relaxed and deadly. In a style more conversational than adversarial he affects to take the jury aside for a quiet, authoritative word on aspects of the defendant's character they ought to know about. Brian Mawhinney, the Transport Secretary, is in the same mould. One sees here a future Home Secretary.

Mawhinney's task yesterday was to calm us after weekend allegations about security in the new Channel Tunnel. MPs arrived in a state of alarm, anxiously clutching copies of Sunday's Observer.

They left reassured that everything was under control, a report would be made, and that Dr M would not hesitate to prescribe whatever might prove necessary. That Dr Mawhinney had not told them what was under control, who was controlling it, who would report, whether he would publish the report, what steps might prove necessary, or indeed whether

he would tell us what he was going to do once he had decided to do it, somehow never quite emerged. All we can recall is a soft, very slightly menacing Ulster accent warning us not to listen to wagging tongues and suggesting that if there were anything we needed to know, we would hear it from him first. In the meantime, he suggested, careful talk costs lives.

Dr Mawhinney was frank in a little disappointed that we should ever have thought otherwise. He was sorry — he put it no higher than that — that newspapers had not come to him for a private word, before publishing. Did we not know that he of all people (and here the Ulster accent became a little more pronounced) took security very seriously? And to think we'd forgot-

ten! One felt almost ashamed to have doubted. How could we have overlooked his sensibilities? Trim, calm, tough, he combines the manner of a senior consultant with the accent of a senior RUC officer. The House, he reminded the more vulgar among us, "will not expect me to detail the requirements". Dear me, no. Suffice it to say that security measures are closely tailored... to the threat.

Mawhinney is not afraid of silences, pausing fastidiously to choose his language. His blend of implied authority with understated virtue makes questioners feel that the very act of asking a question has somehow impugned his competence. However, he will pardon this and indulge the enquiry, though with a faintly ruffled air. Even to answer — let alone politely — noisy questions from Labour's

spokesman, Michael Meacher, was presented as an implied act of forgiveness on Dr Mawhinney's part. Douglas Hurd plays this role with equal skill, as did William Whitelaw when Home Secretary. Rather in the manner of Our Lord — "if it were not so I would have told you" (John xiv. 2) — we are asked to show perfect trust and await such information as might be needed. To those who can carry this off, nothing sticks: a sort of Teflon quality. In the well-

'I am very sorry that I have let the children who watch *Gladiators* down,' says Shadow

Gameshow athlete sacked for taking anabolic steroids

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

JEFFERSON KING, better known as Shadow in the television programme *Gladiators*, has been sacked from the show after he admitted taking body-building drugs. Mr King last night apologised to his fans and said he hoped his dismissal would be a lesson for the millions of children who watch the show. "The one thing that I hold closest to my heart is the admiration of the children who watch *Gladiators*. I am very sorry that I have let them down. I want children to stay away from drugs, to stay away from people who do drugs and to love their parents," he said. Mr King said he took anabolic steroids — a compound of testosterone, stanozolol and oxymetholone — when he was acting in a pantomime at Christmas, four months after filming the last series of *Gladiators*.

The 19-stone athlete said that the pressure of the break-up of his marriage caused him to lose one and a half stone. "That is not a justification for what I did, but steroids can increase your body strength and give you an up-tempo feeling and I was looking for that," he said. He dismissed a report in the

Sunday Mirror that he had taken cocaine and said he would be consulting his lawyers about it. Mr King is the first member of the *Gladiators* team to test positive since the programme's makers, LWT, made random drug-testing a contractual obligation for all *Gladiator* team members last



Gladiators: attracts audience of 13 million

year. The tests were introduced following allegations, in another ITV programme, *The Cook Report*, that some team members were taking banned substances. "Although the anabolic steroids Mr King took are not illegal, they are banned by the International Olympics Committee and can, in some circumstances, have dangerous side effects. The incident is an embarrassment for ITV, which portrays the series as a 'squeaky clean' celebration of human physical prowess. Since it was imported from American television three years ago *Gladiators* has become one of ITV's biggest hits, regularly attracting 13 million viewers to its early Saturday evening slot. The hour-long programme pits enthusiastic and athletic amateur competitors against a resident team of highly trained athletes — the *Gladiators* — in a series of games designed to test fitness and strength. When not displaying their physical prowess, the *Gladiators* are kept busy with lucrative personal appearances opening supermarkets or performing in pantomime. Mr King said he hoped now to open a fitness centre in South London, where he would become a trainer. A spokesman from Kellogg's, which features a picture of Shadow on some of its Frosties breakfast cereal packs as part of a sponsorship deal with *Gladiators*, said last night that the company fully supported LWT's decision.



Jefferson King, the Gladiator Shadow, second left, with Ulrike Jonsson, the show's presenter, and colleagues

Howard gets tough on sports drugs

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL HOWARD, the Home Secretary, is to increase to five years imprisonment the maximum penalty for supplying anabolic steroids in an attempt to curb their use in sport. The tougher penalties will be introduced after a series of cases in which bodybuilders and athletes have been accused of taking the steroids and a

report estimating that there are 50,000 users in Britain. A change to the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 which is expected to be introduced during the current session of parliament will make it an offence to produce, supply, possess or export steroids with intent to supply. The maximum penalty will be three months in prison and a £2,500 fine on summary conviction and five years in jail and an unlimited fine on conviction after a trial. Mr Howard has stopped short of

making possession of anabolic steroids a criminal offence despite evidence that the drugs can have harmful physical and psychological side-effects. Evidence has suggested that using anabolic steroids without medical supervision can cause serious health problems affecting the heart and liver and also cause changes in moods and behaviour, including increased aggression. They are used by gymnasts anxious to improve their muscles.

Soldier denies shooting mourner

By NICHOLAS WATT

A SOLDIER allegedly opened fire on mourners outside the home of an IRA bomber in frustration at seeing suspected terrorists, Belfast Crown Court was told yesterday. Trooper Andrew Clarke, of the 9th/12th Lancers, fired "in a controlled manner" into the crowd outside the home of Thomas Begley, who had blown himself up in the IRA bomb attack on the Shankill Road in October 1993. Michael Lavery, QC, for the Crown, said that Clarke allegedly described to police his "frustration at seeing people he regarded as terrorists walking the streets freely". But Mr Lavery described the attack as "an unjustified and unprovoked attack on a group of people who gave no indication that they were armed or posed any threat".

Clarke, who is originally from Merseyside, denies the attempted murder of Eddie Copeland, who was seriously injured in the alleged attack. Mr Copeland was described by Sinn Féin at the time of the attack as a leading republican. Clarke also denies a charge of wounding Mr Copeland with intent and possession of a firearm and ammunition with intent to endanger life. Mr Copeland said he was shot as he paid his respects outside Begley's house. "I just heard shooting and fell to the ground." The trial continues.

Brooke criticised, Page 10

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Prison service rethinks security

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

STAFF in special secure units holding the most dangerous convicted prisoners and IRA terrorists are to be issued with personal alarms as part of a drive to improve security in British jails.

The alarms, for staff in Parkhurst on the Isle of Wight, Full Sutton near York and Whitemoor, Cambridgeshire, are disclosed in a draft of the prison services' corporate plan leaked to Channel 4 News. It highlights the serious damage done to the service's reputation by the breakout by IRA prisoners from Whitemoor and three lifers from Parkhurst. As a result officials are to mount a major drive to improve security throughout England and Wales.

More closed-circuit television and alarmed fences are to be erected in Category C jails while in some Category D prisons fencing with anti-intruder devices will be erected to prevent people entering the grounds.

A new draft of the service's corporate guidelines says: "Security is now the single overriding priority for the prison service. Our aim is to reduce sharply the number of escapes from prison and from custody outside prison. In particular, we aim to ensure that no Category A prisoner escapes." The report points out, however, that escapes have fallen by 37 per cent since April 1993.

Hurd battle

Continued from page 1 state must be the "building block" of the new international order and future security arrangements had to be based on co-operation between sovereign governments rather than handed over to supranational bodies. "This will be the fundamental and unshakeable conviction on which British policy will be based in the years that lie ahead," he said. Mr Rifkind risked upsetting French and Belgian federalists by renewing his call for an "Atlantic assembly" of American senators and congressmen and European politicians to strengthen links on trade and economic matters as well as defence and security.

Downing Street publicly rejected warnings from Sir Edward Heath and Lord Howe about being dragged down an unwise path by Tory overtures. Lord Howe said British foreign policy was being "dragged into a ghetto of sentimentality and self-delusion". He claimed the Prime Minister had become a hostage to the Euro-sceptics, taking a tougher stance on closer ties with Europe purely to enrage the nine rebel MPs back into the parliamentary party.

A senior Downing Street official said: "They are entitled to their views, but we obviously don't share them." Robin Cook, Shadow Foreign Secretary, whose stand on Europe had been praised by Lord Howe, said: "The Government will not get the best deal out of Europe by reducing Britain to an off-shore island on the fringes of Europe."

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Malcolm Rifkind, page 20
Leading article and letters, page 21

Britain wins support for veal crate ban

Britain said last night that it had won support from Germany for a Europe-wide ban on veal crates (Michael Hornsby writes). After a meeting with Germany's Official State Secretary of Agriculture, in Cologne, Angela Brown, a junior Agriculture Minister, said: "Germany backs our call for a ban throughout the EU, and has promised to give all the help it can to our campaign." Germany has already introduced national legislation banning veal crates. Mrs Brown plans to visit Austria, The Netherlands, Italy, Spain, Portugal and Belgium to press the British case.

Thieves strip day centre

Thieves have stripped a day centre for handicapped children within hours of it opening. Work was completed at the special needs nursery in York at the weekend but when staff arrived yesterday they found kitchen equipment, a television, video recorder, telephones, toys, educational books and fixtures and fittings had been stolen.

Blood claims rejected

The Government rejected calls yesterday for compensation to be given to haemophiliacs who had caught Hepatitis C from contaminated blood products during NHS transfusions. Baroness Cumberlege, the Junior Health Minister, told the House of Lords: "We have to be careful not to open the floodgates to every case that is made for compensation."

Father gasses children

A brother and sister were found dead in a fume-filled car yesterday beside the body of their father. Police believe John Burke decided to kill himself along with his daughter, Siobahn, aged six, and his stepson, John, eight. The three bodies were found in a country lane near Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan. Mr Burke had had left a note on the dashboard.

Police trace sisters

Two elderly sisters sought by police for three years were tracked down yesterday. Winifred Bristow, 76, and Joan Payne, 74, were found at a rented cottage near Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. Angela Dodge, who travelled with them and is believed to be behind a string of deceptions, had gone. Police said the pensioners would not be charged.

Two-tier pay rises for legal aid lawyers

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

LAW firms that carry out legal aid work under the Government-approved franchising scheme have been offered a bigger pay rise than other legal aid firms. The move by the Lord Chancellor towards differential pay is in line with the Government's plans to contract out all legal aid work to firms who achieve

present, 11,000 solicitors' offices provide legal aid, but so far only 1,000 of them have been awarded franchises.

Under the franchising scheme launched last year by the Legal Aid Board, firms are granted greater freedom to provide legal aid services and paid more quickly in return for meeting approved quality

Lord Chancellor outlined proposals that would build on the franchising scheme and place law firms and advice agencies on fixed contracts.

The proposals will form the basis of a Green Paper expected in the spring. Under the terms of the offer, which represents the first pay rise for three years for legal aid law-

receive a three per cent rise for criminal work in magistrates' courts, while others would receive a 1.5 per cent for all criminal work.

Franchised solicitors would also get a two per cent pay rise for legal aid advice work (green form) in areas of law where they hold a franchise, while other law firms get no

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Outed bishop resigns to become monk

THE Bishop of Portsmouth, the Right Rev Timothy Bavin, is resigning to become a monk. Bishop Bavin, 59, will exchange his purple cassock, mitre and the trimmings of episcopal office for the black habit and poverty of monastic life in October this year.

After ten years at Portsmouth the bishop, one of 26 to sit in the House of Lords, will join the seven monks in the Anglican Benedictine community at Alton Abbey, Hampshire, as a postulant. He will become a novice and spend three years in junior vows before taking the solemn vows that will bind him for life to the order's rules of poverty, chastity and obedience.

The bishop said his resignation was unconnected with his public "outing" by the gay human rights group Outrage last November. Bishop Bavin was one of a number of allegedly homosexual clergymen to be named. He made no comment at the time. His chaplain, the Rev Howard Barker, said: "It was clear at the time that this action was based on hearsay and innuendo. We want to emphasise there is no connection."

Bishop Bavin told the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, of his plans to enter the religious life in 1993, and the Archbishop agreed last year that the bishop might inform the Queen of his wish

Bishop Bavin's decision to become a monk was unconnected with his naming by a gay group, he told Ruth Gledhill

to resign this year. Bishop Bavin said yesterday the two events were unconnected. "This had been decided last year. The only question was when," he said. Earlier, the bishop, speaking on BBC Radio 4, said it was not true that he had been "outed" out of office. "It's inevitable people will make connections of that sort, but all I can do is to deny them," he said. The tactics employed by Outrage were not helpful. "The way to change people's attitudes is to generally get alongside them and to work with them."

The bishop was one of about ten bishops who led the

episcopal opposition to women priests in the Church of England and there was speculation in church circles that he might even convert to Roman Catholicism.

However, the bishop changed his mind on the issue of women priests over a period of several months and many opponents were disappointed when, after the General Synod vote in favour in 1992, Bishop Bavin decided to ordain them himself in Portsmouth.

The bishop said yesterday he had considered entering a Catholic Benedictine community. "But I believe God has called me into the Angli-

can Church. I have served my life and ministry in the Anglican Church. The call to the religious life in a community is one that has been with me for many years, but I always kept it in the back of my mind because of the job I was doing." The turning point came when he realised he was going to turn 60 this year. "I have been a bishop for 20 years, first in Johannesburg and now here. If I am going to make this big change, I need to make it before I am much older."

He had not gone earlier, because "part of me felt it might be running away from responsibility."

He will remain a bishop, entitled to confirm and ordain, but for two years will carry out no episcopal duties. After that, the extent of his episcopal work will depend on the



The Benedictine Alton Abbey in Hampshire

Bishop of Winchester and the abbot.

Bishop Bavin has come to know the community at Alton Abbey through his work there as its visitor, the person who acts as mentor or guarantor of the community's life and health to the Church of England. This job has required him to make quinquennial

inspections, and he has stayed there regularly.

One of Bishop Bavin's fellow bishops, who asked to remain anonymous, said: "I have considerable sympathies with him. I doubt if he will miss being a bishop. But I am sure the Bishop of Portsmouth is embracing this for all the right reasons."

The bishop will automatically lose his seat in the House of Lords when he retires. The Bishop of Blackburn, the Right Rev Alan Chesters, is expected to succeed him there. David Allison, of Outrage, said later: "The naming of the bishops has produced a very positive response from the Church of England. Earlier this month, bishops held a previously unscheduled discussion on homosexual issues, which resulted in a strongly worded condemnation of anti-gay discrimination."

Clergyman who opted for a quieter life

AS A bishop, Timothy Bavin's day began at 7am in his chapel (Ruth Gledhill reports). By 9.15, after breakfast, he is at his desk and remains there for the rest of the morning, answering letters and dealing with diocesan administration. Sometimes he might have to attend a meeting. After a working lunch and a 20-minute snooze, he spends the afternoon dealing with appointments or in meetings, and preparing for evening engagements ranging from confirma-

tions, meetings or social events. His day is punctuated by regular prayer, and if he is lucky, he is in bed by midnight. As a member of the General Synod's House of Bishops and one of the 26 bishops to sit in the House of Lords, he travels regularly to London and York.

At Alton Abbey, he will be in church by 5.30am. He will remain in prayer until 7am, when there will be a further hour for reading, followed by "conventional eucharist", the morning commu-

nion service, which is open to the public. At 10am he and other members go to work for two hours at community tasks such as gardening or helping in the guest house. They meet at midday for prayer and lunch, work through the afternoon and meet again for vespers, or evening prayers. After a short "recreation" period they have supper, meet for compline or last prayers, after which they must remain in silence. He would expect to be in bed by 9pm.

Father gets £1m for pathological grief after death of two daughters

By Emma Wilkins

A SUCCESSFUL businessman who became a helpless recluse after his two daughters were killed in a car accident received more than £1 million compensation yesterday for the devastating impact on his life.

Peter Vernon, 52, who lost control of his electronics company after the accident 12 years ago, lives on state benefits and is unemployed except for menial tasks, the High Court in London was told. He was a witness to the aftermath of the accident, in which his children, Theresa, three, and Phillipa, seven, were drowned when a Volvo driven by their nanny plunged into a river in Wales.

While his condition could partly be described as post-traumatic stress disorder, Mr Vernon's state also showed elements of pathological grief, Mr Justice Sedley said in a 262-page reserved judgment.

Mr Vernon, who now lives alone in a rectory near Tetbury, Gloucestershire, is incapable of performing simple domestic tasks including working the washing machine, the court was told. After the accident, he tried for four years to save the company, but could not cope.

Prudence Vernon, his estranged wife, left the family home just over two years ago with the couple's three children born since the accident. Mrs Vernon's departure was a direct consequence of the deterioration in her husband's character and behaviour, the court was told.

The couple witnessed at-

tempts to save their daughters after the accident in August 1982 when the girls' nanny was driving the children and a family friend along a road in Powys.

The family Volvo struck the kerb, went out of control and plunged into the River Tawe. Katherine Bosley, the nanny, escaped through the driver's window but the Vernon children, their friend Sophie Beloe, and the family Labrador were drowned.

Mr and Mrs Vernon were called to the scene by police, not knowing their children's fate until rescuers pulled the car from the water. "From the bank they watched helplessly as hope came and went," Mr Justice Sedley said. "There is no need to detail the horror of the event: it was every parent's nightmare become a reality."

Mr Vernon's claim for damages was against General Accident, Miss Bosley's insurers. The £1,178,526.90 award was stayed pending a ruling from Mr Justice Sedley on legal costs and interest.

General Accident is studying the judgment and considering legal options, including a possible appeal. Explaining the length of the 70-day hearing, Mr Justice Sedley said the insurers had disputed every element and detail of Mr Vernon's claim.

Mr Vernon plans to use the award to provide a stable financial future for his three children — two boys and a girl. His solicitor said outside the court that the threat of a possible appeal was hampering his plans.



The Princess meets staff at Harlem Hospital yesterday after visiting the hospital's Aids paediatric centre

Princess is queen for a day in New York

magazine job at Harper's Bazaar was the talk of the town.

The Princess spent the morning meeting mothers and babies infected with HIV at Harlem Hospital, which she first visited in 1989. Lunch, a private affair, was organised by Veronica Hearst, wife of the media

baron Randolph Hearst, the owner of Harper's Bazaar and a stable of other publications.

But the hottest ticket was for the fashion industry annual "Oscars" at Lincoln Centre, where 1,100 guests paid \$1,000-a-plate to be in the Princess's presence. Again, she was to be the host

of the Hearsts, who paid \$25,000 for the honour. Also booked to sit at her table was her friend Liz Tilberis, former editor of British Vogue who now edits the Hearst's Harper's Bazaar.

The Princess was expected to present Ms Tilberis with a special award from the Council of Fashion Designers of America. The late Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, New York's last real superstar celebrity, was to receive a posthumous award for her contribution to fashion.

Lecturer 'had no motive' to poison wife

By Gillian Bowditch
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A UNIVERSITY lecturer yesterday denied that he attempted to murder his wife and an 11-year-old girl by lacing their drinks with the drug atropine.

Paul Agutter, 46, also denied endangering the lives of eight other people who drank spiked tonic water bought from a supermarket. He admitted to Edinburgh High Court that his job as a biochemistry lecturer at Napier University gave him access to the atropine, but said he had no motive to kill.

Asked why he did not call an ambulance when his wife became violently ill after sipping a gin and tonic, Agutter, of Alhinstanford, Lothian, said: "I take the view that our emergency services are badly overstretched." He said he had phoned his GP. When she saw his wife, she sent for an ambulance.

Agutter said that if he had been guilty of poisoning his wife, he would have thrown the tonic water down the sink, instead of handing it to an ambulance man for analysis. The trial continues.

Angry boyfriend made a bonfire of the vanities

By a Staff Reporter

A MAN who became incensed at his fiancée's extravagance set fire to her favourite clothes when he discovered that she had paid for her latest shopping spree from their joint bank account.

Alan Cunningham, 37, piled up clothes worth £16,000 from Jackie Wilkins's wardrobe in the front garden of the home they shared and doused them in barbecue lighter fluid before setting them on fire, magistrates in Haverfordwest, Dyfed, were told yesterday. Cunningham, manager of the Bristol Trader Pub in Haverfordwest, who was prepared to admit arson, was let off with a police caution after Miss Wilkins asked that he be dealt with leniently. The couple have split up since the incident.

"It was the last straw," Cunningham said after the hearing. "I could have handled competing with another man for her affections, but I couldn't beat her wardrobe."

Timothy Roberts, for the prosecution, said that Miss Wilkins spent £80 on a navy blue Marks and Spencer blazer during a secret shopping expedition. When the couple's joint bank statement arrived Cunningham lost his temper

and made a bonfire from 55 items of clothing, throwing the blazer into the flames.

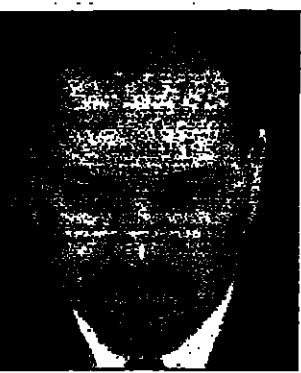
Cunningham said: "While she was out I rushed around the house grabbing huge armfuls of her clothes. I piled them all on the front lawn, poured barbecue fuel over them, then tossed a match on to the heap. I stood and watched as the flames engulfed all her skirts, leggings, blouses, underwear, and coats before throwing water on."

He then went to see his 28-year-old fiancée at her mother's house and told her what he had done. He said: "She went absolutely crazy. Jackie always liked to dress up in

nice things so I thought I'd hit her where it would hurt most. I did feel a bit sorry afterwards but I'd do it again under the same circumstances." He spent a night in police cells after being arrested.

The court heard that even though the couple had parted after living together for four years, Miss Wilkins did not want Cunningham to have a criminal conviction.

Miss Wilkins, a hospital administrative worker, said afterwards: "I admit I do like clothes. What woman doesn't? But I'm not obsessed with them. All I did was buy an ordinary blazer. I didn't deserve what he did."



Jackie Wilkins and Alan Cunningham, her ex-fiancee

Danger UXB call brings belated visit from Army

By Paul Wilkinson

BOMB disposal experts turned up yesterday to look for a Second World War bomb in a cottage garden 18 months after the alarm was raised. The first soldier sent to find the bomb was diverted to assist the UN in Bosnia, so was the second and then the third expert found himself too busy and had to pass the file over to a fourth.

It then took months to sort out a wrangle between the Army and the late owner's solicitors over indemnities for possible damage to the building, Ironsides Cottage, and neighbouring homes in Louth, Lincolnshire. Even if the latest three-day investigation does find a bomb, it will be April before the Army starts operations to remove it.

"It seems they have a very full diary," said Ann Clark, a legal executive with Wilkin and Chapman, the solicitors attempting to sell the empty cottage. "The Army reckons that as the bomb has not gone off after 50 years, it is not going to cause any trouble unless someone disturbs it, so it has got a low priority."

"We are not even sure if there is one there, it is only

because a neighbour claimed he heard one fall that we called in the bomb disposal people. We cannot sell it with a bomb lodged in the foundations. The Army is drilling to see what they can find, but if they do find something they have told us it will be spring before they can tackle it."

The alarm was sounded by Gordon Bennett, 57, a neighbour, who remembered his father investigating at the time. "He was a jobbing fitter and he used his plumbline to measure how far down it was," he said. "He did it very carefully and told me it was 13ft 6in inches to the outer shell. I've known it was there since I was a little boy. I told the owners about it often enough but they didn't seem at all bothered."

"When the house went up for sale I had to tell the estate agents because I was worried that if they used vibrating equipment during renovations it could blow."

The Army was unable to say yesterday what was happening at the site. "All those who know about it are out digging in Louth," a spokeswoman said.

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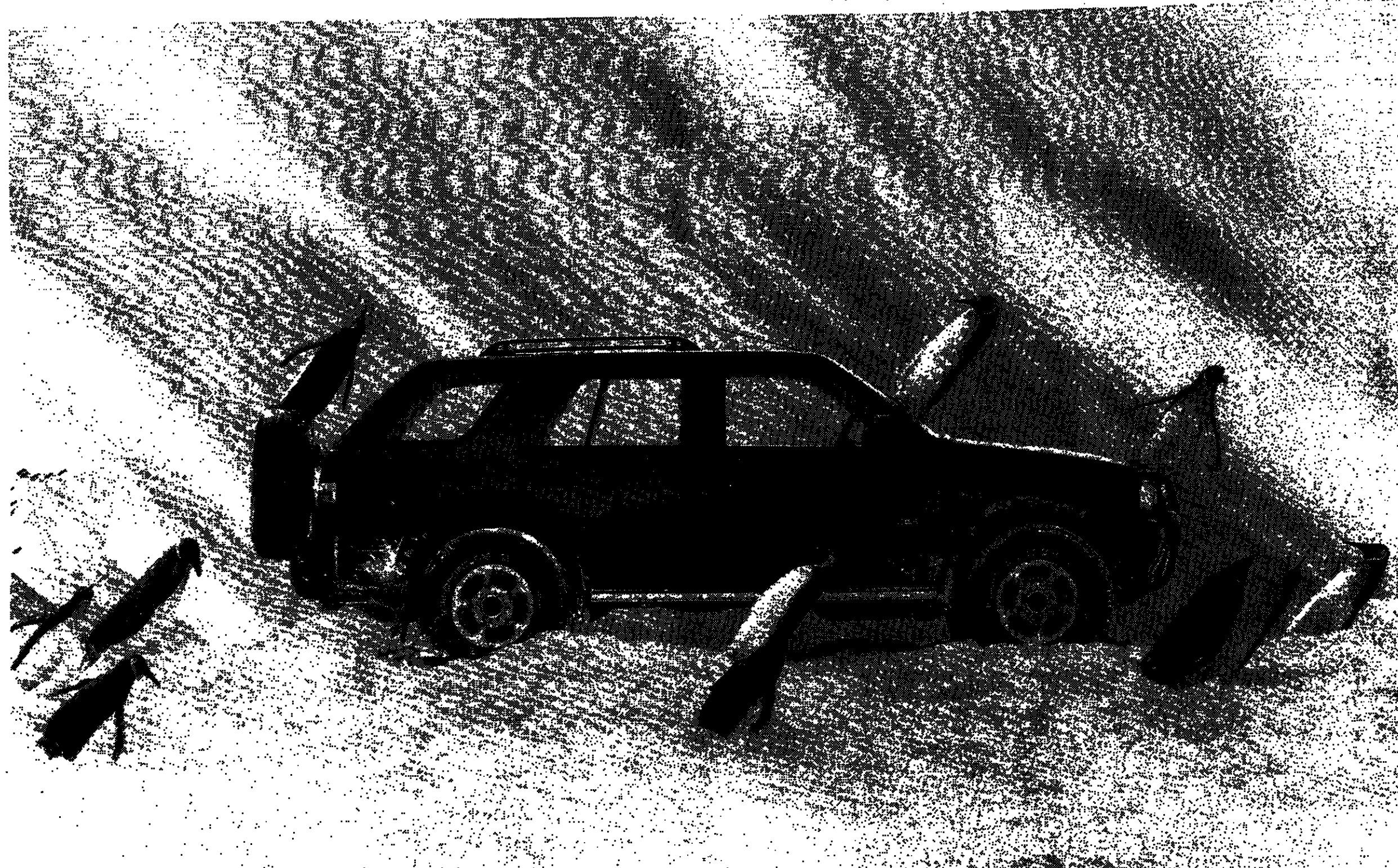
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Former PoWs file for compensation in Japanese courts

FROM GWYN ROBINSON IN TOKYO

A BRITISH-LED mission of former Allied prisoners of war formally filed a compensation suit against the Japanese Government yesterday for trauma suffered in Japanese labour camps during the Second World War.

The seven members of the mission — four Britons, an Australian, a New Zealander and an American — said that they would not rest until the Japanese Government gave them a full written apology, as well as "token compensation" of \$22,000 (£14,000) each to more than 20,000 former PoWs in the four countries.

The group is now planning an international campaign to urge foreign governments to refuse Japan's entry into international organisations such as the United Nations Security Council.

"Revenge, however, is not the motive," said Martyn Day, a British solicitor and spokesman for the group. "These court proceedings were com-

mented in sorrow rather than anger. What we want to see is proper and full resolution of this matter. But we want to stress this case is against the Government, not against the Japanese people."

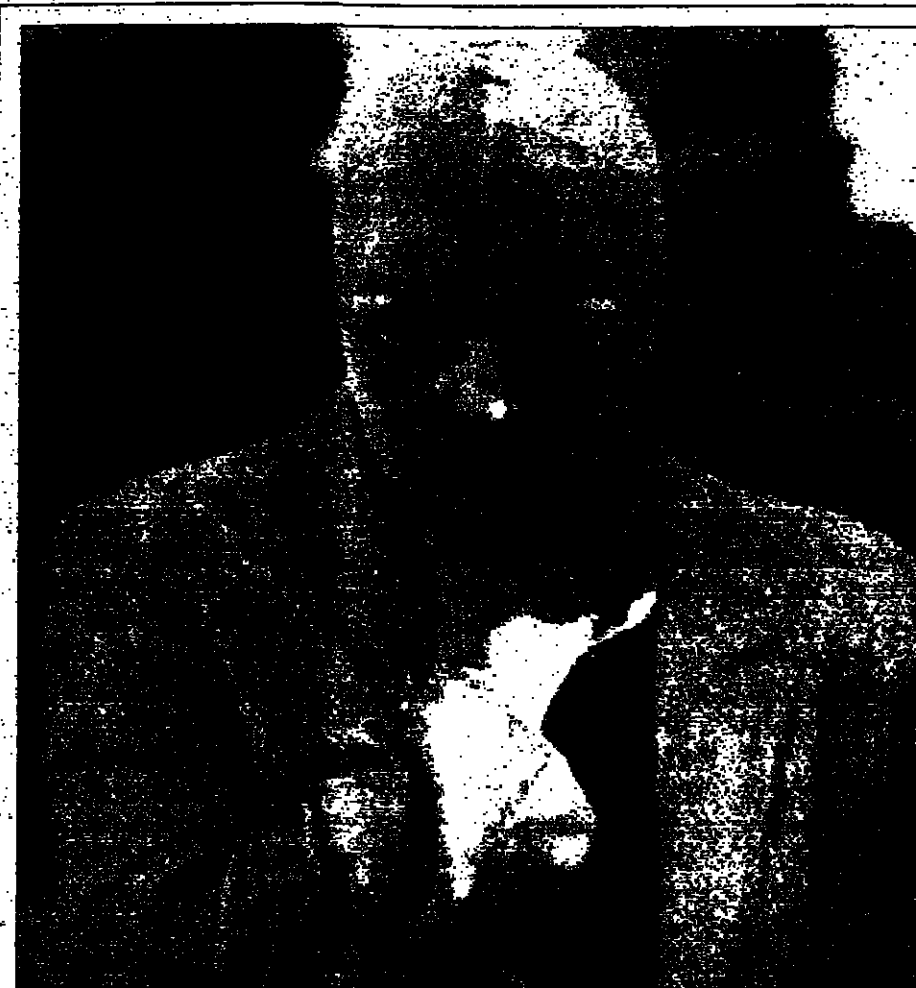
According to the group's Japanese lawyers, the first hearing of the case will be in the summer. Until then, the group is working to increase contacts with other groups of people who suffered under the Japanese army. They include the so-called comfort women who were forced into sex slavery by Japanese soldiers, Asian PoWs and civilian forced labourers. A joint delegation representing the groups will go to the G7 summit in Canada, which is scheduled for a few weeks before the 50th anniversary of the end of the war in August.

The former PoWs have launched a well-orchestrated publicity campaign which, in the last week in Tokyo, has featured press conferences,

memorial ceremonies and meetings with Japanese war veterans, Korean comfort women and historians. The mission has attracted some criticism from commentators who say its timing is inappropriate in view of the earthquake that devastated Kobe.

Concerns have also been expressed that the publicity campaign could undermine a visit by Michael Heseltine, the Board of Trade President, to Japan. Mr Heseltine last night rejected such concerns and said the two missions were "entirely separate".

Mr Day, however, conceded that the group's case was, to a degree, embarrassing to the British Government. "But I wouldn't take the point too far because clearly the Government has taken an interest in our case, and has given us help, even arranging meetings and receptions for us."



Michelle Beattie arrives at court wearing a mask to protect her scarred face

Man set fire to wife after she started affair, court told

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A WOMAN wearing a surgical mask and gloves to protect her scarred face and hands told a court yesterday how her jealous husband turned her into a human torch.

Michelle Beattie had started an affair with a workmate while her husband Leslie was on holiday in Tenerife. The couple had already decided to end their eight-year marriage.

But Mr Beattie, 35, could not bear the thought of his 31-year-old wife in the arms of another man. Durham Crown Court heard. After a row, Mrs Beattie went to sleep in the spare bedroom of their home in Cramlington, Northumberland.

Paul Batty, for the prosecution, said Mr Beattie then carried their sleeping five-year-old daughter Gemma downstairs before returning to douse his wife with petrol. Mrs Beattie told the jury she woke and found her husband standing over her with a petrol can and cigarette

lighter. He sprinkled petrol on to her clothes and over the bed and carpet. "He brought the lighter in front of me and kept threatening 'I'll do it, I'll do it'. I was terrified."

Police, who had been alerted by a neighbour, tried to grab Mr Beattie's cigarette lighter but there was a spark, and the room ignited, the court heard. "The place just seemed to go up like a bomb. There was a big explosion. I felt myself ignite. My whole body was ablaze. It was just like slow motion," Mrs Beattie said.

Mrs Beattie spent more than three months in hospital with 41 per cent burns. She was "permanently disfigured", and had to wear a mask 23 hours a day, Mr Batty said.

Mr Beattie denies attempting to murder his wife and two charges of arson with intent to endanger life in December 1993. He admits arson being reckless as to whether life was endangered. The trial continues.

Cot deaths couple to sue Health Department

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A COUPLE whose relationship broke down after they suffered two cot deaths within a year have been granted legal aid to sue the Department of Health for negligence.

Nigel and Julie Tuckwell, of Wakefield, are among an estimated 150 parents throughout the country who believe the department was negligent in failing to warn of the dangers of baby mattresses after reports that they contain fire-retardant chemicals which emit toxic fumes.

Their daughter Katie died in her cot on her father's birthday in January 1989. Phillip died 11 months later in the same room. Both were under 12 months old.

Last month, Joanne Forrest, of Manchester, whose baby of nine months died in his cot, was the first to receive legal aid to challenge the Government over lack of safety warnings.

The Government denies any negligence in warning of potential dangers associated with the mattresses.

Foreigners outperform British students

BY JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

FOREIGN students who join Cambridge University's mathematics degree course for high-flyers are outperforming their British counterparts, exposing a decline in the teaching of the subject in schools, a leading don said yesterday.

Cambridge is simplifying its mathematics tripos for the second time in four years because many students can no longer cope with the demands. A third of the students admitted to the course come from overseas universities.

Professor David Crighton, head of applied mathematics and theoretical physics, said: "I regard them as our own control group. Usually, they are not studying in their first language and often have little experience of written examinations, but they are holding their own with ease."

He added: "Our view is that changes in maths teaching in schools have been foisted on the National Curriculum by professional educationalists in teacher training colleges. I'm not blaming the teachers."

Patient sent DIY kit to take out abdominal stitch

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A WOMAN of 70 who was sent a scalpel and a pair of forceps through the post and told by her local hospital to remove her own stitch is to be the subject of a Scottish Office report. The woman who attended the menopause clinic at Stobhill Hospital in Glasgow had a hormone implant stitched into her abdomen.

Yesterday Stobhill, an NHS Trust, said about 300 patients a year removed their own stitches at home without medical help. The hospital said the practice had been going on for years but Scottish doctors reacted with amazement to the news.

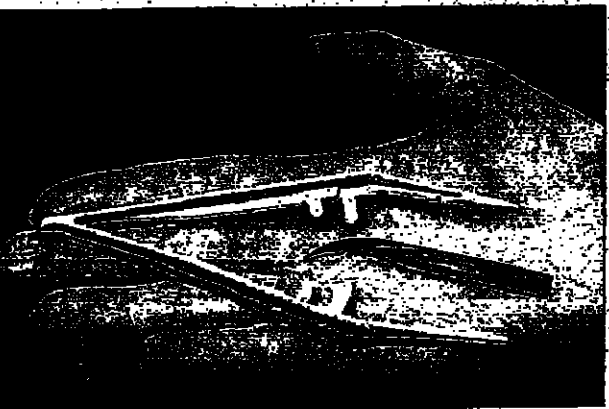
The British Medical Association said it did not approve of patients removing their own stitches and said it did not know of other cases where this had happened.

Irene Hamilton, BMA Scottish spokeswoman, said: "It is not a satisfactory state of affairs, especially where the patient is elderly. I'm astonished that this should happen in the Scottish Health Service especially when we are being

told how well funded it is." Lord Fraser, Minister of State at the Scottish Office, has asked for a report into the incident, which came to light when the patient's GP protested to the hospital.

Dr Sam Galbraith, Labour MP for Strathkelvin and Bearsden, is to raise the matter in the Commons. He said: "Taking out stitches is normally simple, but there can be complications. Medical help should be available. Hospitals of the future will offer quick, painless, bloodless operations in which engineers play as important a role as surgeons' experts said yesterday."

John Wickham, senior research fellow at Gray's and St Thomas's medical school, told a conference on new technology in surgery organised by the Royal Academy of Engineering: "We have to get away from the idea that if something goes wrong you make a bloody great hole, put your hands inside and sort it out. Our grandchildren won't believe that is what we did."



The forceps and scalpel sent to an elderly woman

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Free parking gives a boost to capital's battery cars

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

LONDON is to offer free meter parking in the city centre to drivers of electric cars.

The scheme was unveiled yesterday by Westminster City Council, which sees it as a new weapon in its war on air pollution. It is claimed to be the first scheme of its kind in Europe and is backed by the Electric Vehicle Association, a trade body set up to develop the market.

Brian Roden, director of the association, said yesterday he was delighted, adding: "Initially very few vehicles will use the free parking. There are only around 30,000 electric vehicles and 20,000 of those are milk floats."

The initiative coincides with the possible solution in California to one of the biggest drawbacks to electric vehicles:

the maximum range for the best electric cars is 100 miles and recharging the batteries takes several hours. Scientists at SRI, the former Stanford Research Institute, and the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratories have proposed a new kind of battery that would allow electric cars to be charged up in seconds in the same way that petrol-engined cars fill up at the pumps.

Westminster's move has not met with universal approval. Roger King, public affairs director for the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, said: "The electric car is a pipe dream. A really enlightened council should be thinking of reducing parking charges for cars with catalytic converters, which are 92 per cent cleaner than old cars."

Malcolm Fergusson, a trans-



The search for an electric vehicle has inspired generations of inventors without capturing the public imagination

port and pollution expert with the Institute for European Environmental Policy, said: "It's all a bit of a gimmick. Quite frankly, I cannot see that electric cars offer enormous benefits in terms of overall air quality."

Mr Fergusson, who will be speaking on the environ-

tal impact of electric vehicles later this month at a National Society for Clean Air conference, said widespread use of electric vehicles would increase pollution at power stations and emissions of carbon dioxide, the gas linked to global warming. And while local air quality could be

boosted by switching rubbish trucks and delivery vans to battery power, more electric cars could increase parking problems in big cities.

Mr Fergusson said: "The performance is so poor. People will only have one as a second car at best rather than as the all-purpose family car. In

Westminster no one is going to give up their Jag."

Mr Roden dismissed such criticisms as blinkered. He said electric cars cost 3p a mile to run and predicted the cost of buying a small car converted to battery use, now about

£15,000, would fall to £8,000 in a few years.

Dream machine that has yet to run out of steam

By Nick Nuttall

THERE have been many false dawns for the electric vehicle. Most will recall the ill-fated CS, the battery-powered three-wheeler designed by Sir Clive Sinclair.

But few may remember the Enfield 8000. The Electricity Council ordered 60 of these mini-sized motors after the energy crisis of 1973. However, it cost more than £2,000, about twice the price of a Mini, and coasted to a halt after 45 miles.

The first bright spark was a carriage which in 1837 moved under its own electric power in Aberdeen only six years after Michael Faraday discovered the basis of electromagnetic induction. London's first licensed cab was an electric vehicle built by WC Bersey and launched in 1897. The lead acid battery had 40 cells and ran at 12mph for 50 miles on a charge.

These early attempts to exploit the electric car as a rival to steam, although promising, could not in the end compete with the petrol-driven internal com-

bustion engine. Undeterred, inventors have continued to offer electric vehicles to a unconvinced public. However, the potential for battery-powered vehicles is changing, driven by a boom in technological developments and the search for less polluting means of travel. Many new battery ideas are being devised, including using flywheels to drive an electric engine.

Of the 10,000 electric vehicles on British roads which are not milk floats, many are bread vans, baggage handling trucks at stations or test vehicles being used by utilities, local authorities and companies. Some enthusiastic individuals have also converted cars to run on batteries.

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders said it was not aware that the private motorist could buy an electric vehicle in Britain. In France and Italy, Citroën, Peugeot and Fiat do sell electric cars and these could be imported.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

Dealer East

East-West game, IMPs

W	N	E	S
Deutsch	Muller	Rosenberg	de Boer
Pass	29	Pass	29
Pass	30	Pass	30
All pass			

Contract: 3NT by South. Opening lead: ♠6

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

Several hands this week concern the Macmillan Pairs, concluded last Friday. The excellent bulletin of the tournament was edited by Patrick Jourdain.

No doubt you are familiar with the idea of knocking out the danger entry first. It came up in a particularly clear form on today's hand. After Rosenberg had opened in hearts, Deutsch led a heart against South's 3NT. Rosenberg ducked the first round. After losing a trick in each of spades and diamonds de Boer could count eight sure tricks, but there was a danger that the defence would set up the hearts, and if East then had the remaining entry, the con-

tract would fail. When dummy won the first heart trick, de Boer continued with the ace of spades, before playing a diamond.

When East shows out, clearing diamonds is wrong. West continues hearts. East establishes the suit and gets in with the king of spades to beat the contract. Instead de Boer won the ace of diamonds, and led the queen of spades. East took the spade and switched to the king of clubs, removing the entry to the diamonds. De Boer ducked and was now in control. East switched to hearts, but now South took four more spade tricks, to go with the four other tricks he had already made. At the end he exited with the queen of diamonds and had to make one more trick.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

The following game, with its cascade of sacrifices, ending in an offer of the black queen to force checkmate to the fleeing white king, could be the most stunning game of 1995.

White: Roberto Cifuentes
Black: Vadim Zvagnitsev
Wijk aan Zee, January 1995

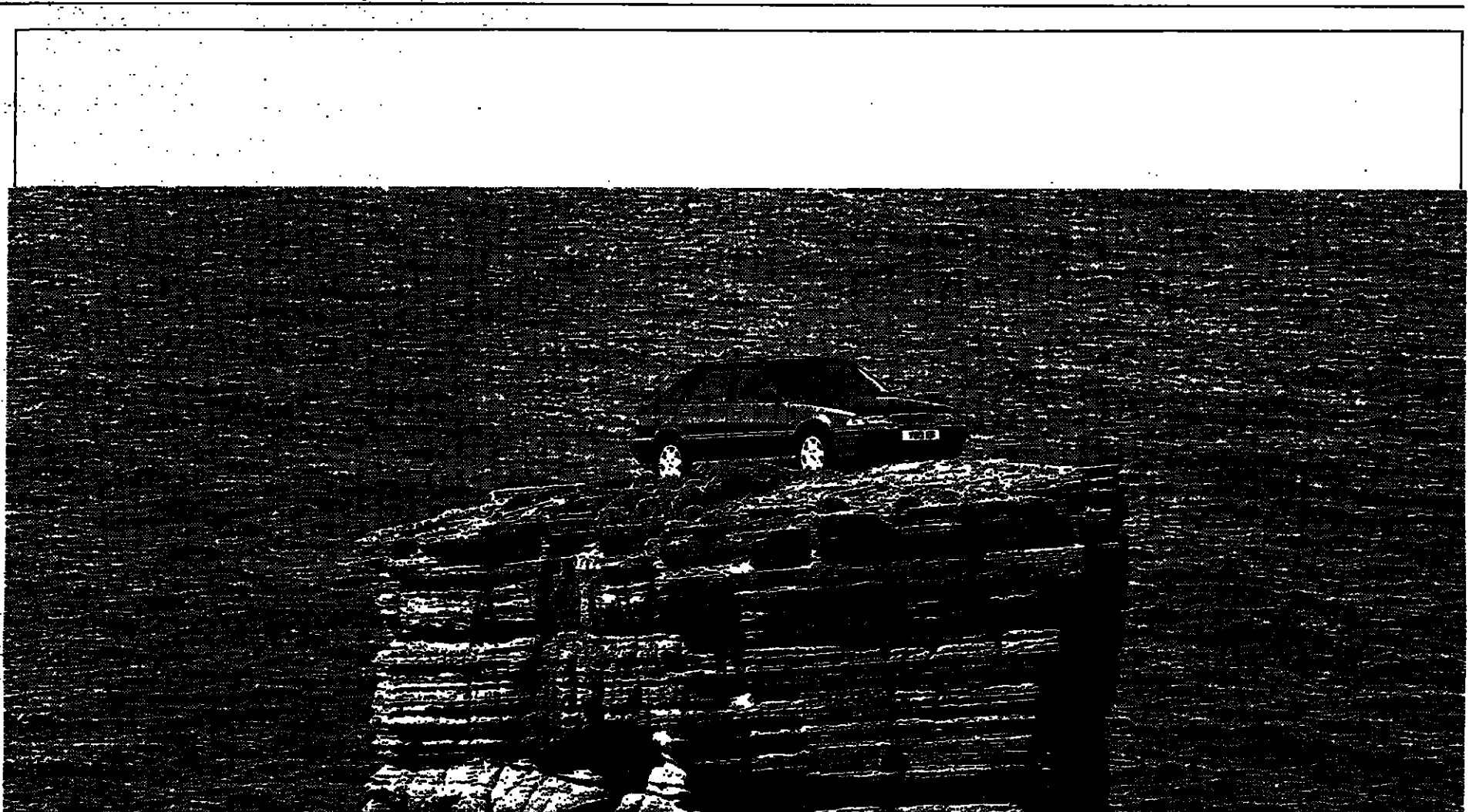
Semi-Slay Defence

1. d4	d5
2. Nf3	c5
3. c4	Nc6
4. Nc3	c8
5. e3	Nbd7
6. Qc2	b6
7. Bc2	Bb7
8. 0-0	Bb7
9. Rd1	0-0
10. Bf1	Qc7
11. Nbd2	Qc7
12. Nc2	c5
13. d5	exd5
14. cxd5	exd5
15. Nf4	exd5
16. Bf3	exd5
17. Qc2	exd5
18. g3	b5
19. Bf3	b4
20. Nc2	Nc6
21. Qc2	Nc6
22. Nc2	Qc7
23. Nc3	Rac8
24. Bc2	Nb2
25. Kc2	Nb2
26. Bb3	Nb2
27. Kf3	Nb2
28. Kf3	Nb2
29. Bf3	Nb2
30. Bf3	Nb2
31. Qc2	Nb2

Diagram of final position

8							
7							
6							
5							
4							
3							
2							
1							

Winning Move, page 48



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ABOVE ALL, IT'S A ROVER

Secret monitors lift curtain for MPs and peers

THE most secretive of Britain's three intelligence services, GCHQ, is preparing to emerge from the shadows as it waits to be summoned before the new parliamentary oversight committee chaired by Tom King, the former Defence Secretary.

Government Communications headquarters at Cheltenham, which employs more people and spends more than M15 and M16 combined, is expected to face rigorous questioning by the King committee.

A special briefing paper outlining GCHQ's functions has now been drawn up by staff at the Cheltenham centre and sent to the parliamentary Intelligence and Security Committee, created under the Intelligence Services Act.

Mr King and the other members of the committee, including Lord Howe of Aberavon, the former Foreign Secretary, have already met at the Cabinet Office to discuss how to carry out their new responsibilities.

The first hearing, when witnesses from the intelligence services will be called to give evidence, is expected next month. Senior staff at GCHQ admit that interrogation by the committee of MPs and peers, even though it will be carried out within the so-called "ring of secrecy", will be more of a culture shock for them than for M15 and M16.

GCHQ staff have deliberately courted the image of being "dusty, old-fashioned, Cold War" secret servants. That reputation has helped them to remain in the shadows in the past but makes it more difficult for them in the new era of openness.

Tucked away on the outskirts of Cheltenham, GCHQ is the largest employer of pure mathematicians in the country, some of whom are described by their colleagues as being "close to the dividing line between genius and insanity".

Their role and achievements will come under scrutiny from the intelligence committee, whose members will question whether GCHQ has changed its role since the end of the Cold War and whether it is

GCHQ, Cheltenham, which has escaped the public scrutiny directed at M15 and M16, is preparing to justify its role and £500m annual budget. Michael Evans reports

providing value for money. GCHQ has an annual budget of about £500 million and a staff of 6,000.

With its satellite-linked dishes at Cheltenham and at outstations abroad, including Cyprus and Hong Kong, GCHQ monitors telecommunications and other electronic signals, searching for anything that will "add a few more pieces to the intelligence jigsaw". They rely on "other people's carelessness", a sentence here or there in an international phone conversation that gives away a crucial clue.

GCHQ's efforts have to

changes between terrorists and plottings by financial fraudsters. They say it is technically impossible to eavesdrop on such a comprehensive scale. Such a widescale operation was also far beyond GCHQ's budget.

One source said: "GCHQ is in the business of looking for needles in haystacks and they are pretty big haystacks. That does genuinely set in perspective the environment in which GCHQ has to work." GCHQ radio operators and analysts, backed by advanced computers, spend most of the time sifting the dross to try to find genuine intelligence. "They rarely get things handed them on a plate," the source said.

Another myth GCHQ seems anxious to dispel is that it turns its satellite dishes inwards as a matter of daily routine to scoop up telephone and cable communications across the country, listening in on indiscreet liaisons involving members of the Royal Family or senior staff at the Ministry of Defence.

Under the Intelligence Services Act, GCHQ is not excluded from monitoring internal United Kingdom traffic but it is nearly always because there is an overseas connection, the sources said. GCHQ, like M16, comes under the aegis of the Foreign Office and therefore principally provides foreign and defence intelligence. However, if radio operators come across information that could be useful for a police prosecution, the Act allows that intelligence to be passed on. GCHQ codebreakers are also used for deciphering coded material uncovered by the police in criminal investigations.

GCHQ has, in addition, a secondary role, which is to protect the security of the nation's official and military communications. GCHQ experts also advise government and industry on communications and computer security.



King to chair group scrutinising GCHQ

reflect the "statement of national requirement" drawn up by the Cabinet Office's Joint Intelligence Committee, whose members include the heads of the three intelligence services.

The director of GCHQ is Sir John Ayle. Senior GCHQ staff who expect to be called before the parliamentary committee are hoping to dispel what they say are the myths that have grown up about their secret work.

One, they insist, is that GCHQ "hoovers up" everything in the ether 24 hours a day, from conversations between Russian military commanders in their staff cars to coded ex-



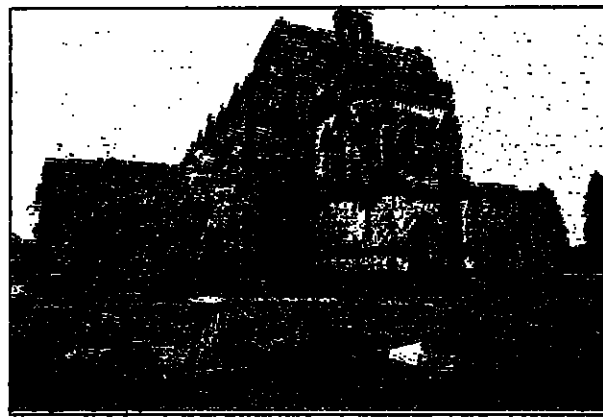
John Larson uses the laser to remove a coating of lime and cement, the result of restoration work in the 1950s, from a carving

Laser rescues chapel's medieval carvings

MEDICAL lasers most commonly used to remove tattoos are being employed to reveal important 15th-century carvings that have been obscured for more than 40 years (Dalya Alberge writes).

The technology will save the stone treasures of the Rosslyn Chapel in Kirkcaldy, Fife, which dates from 1446. The chapel's "riots in ornamentation" inspired Sir Walter Scott to put pen to paper. The carvings are decaying so rapidly that they are in danger of being lost forever.

Rosslyn is a chapel so densely filled with carved flora, fauna and figures, it has been likened to a Hindu temple. Window traceries feature angels holding books and scrolls, a vaulted roof is studded with star-shapes and flying buttresses are lined with delicate roses. Restoring such intricately



Rosslyn Chapel, Kirkcaldy, dating from 1446

worked stone could take up to six years, with a team of three or four conservators working full-time. It took some four hours to complete last week's initial experiment on a single head.

The laser technique has been developed in Britain by

the National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside. John Larson, its head of sculpture conservation, said that drastic action was needed to undo the conservation work of the 1950s. His team needs to remove a thick coating of lime and cement,

which was applied in the misguided belief that it would halt the stonework's decay. Conservators coated the entire interior of the chapel. In some areas, they brushed on the material so clumsily that it is up to 3mm thick. Unusually, brushmarks further obscure a wealth of fine detail.

Mr Larson said: "It is getting pretty desperate. The stone surface is flaking badly." Unless action was taken, the carvings could be lost forever. The salt in the sandstone was coming away, taking with it the original stone. Removing the hard outer layer of lime and cement coating was vital to allow the salt to escape, "to let the stone breathe".

Mr Larson spoke of the thrill of seeing an eye of a carved face suddenly peering at them as they undertook their initial ex-

periment. It had been entirely obscured from view. Laser is the only way to remove the outer layer without damaging the stone underneath. Mr Larson said that water would aggravate the salts more, chemical treatment would hasten the decay, and traditional abrasive techniques could damage the stone.

The laser's concentrated beam vaporises the material, and it affects cement but not stone.

About £1 million is needed for the restoration. Although the chapel hopes for millennium support, it will be launching an appeal. Queen Victoria would not be amused to hear that Rosslyn Chapel is decaying. She was so impressed by its beauty, on her visit in 1842, that she said that something so unique should be preserved for the country.

NRA acts to curb oil pollution of rivers

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A CAMPAIGN to prevent oil pollution in rivers and streams was launched yesterday. There are more than 6,000 oil pollution incidents each year in the National Rivers Authority's eight regions in England and Wales.

The authority's "Follow the Oil Care Code" campaign is aimed at all who use, store, distribute and dispose of oil. The NRA has set up a freephone number — 0800-663366 — to enable the public to locate their nearest oil recycling bank.

Oil companies are helping the authority by distributing literature advising on the use of oil. Many incidents are caused by small industrial users — such as garages and factories with storage tanks — taking poor pollution prevention measures, or by DIY users simply flushing waste oil down a drain.

A few litres of oil can cover a large area of water, reducing river oxygen levels, harming fish, birds and plants, and affecting drinking water. Pollution blackspots are the Midlands, South Wales and the Greater London area, the authority said. Oil pollution can attract a maximum fine of £30,000 in magistrates' courts with no limit in crown courts.

Electric cars, page 7

Pine marten nearly extinct in Wales

BY MICHAEL HORNBY, COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

THE pine marten, one of Britain's most elusive mammals, which was reported last year to have vanished from England, is on the brink of extinction in Wales, wildlife scientists said yesterday.

Scotland can still boast a relatively healthy number of the small, nocturnal creatures, which belong to the weasel family, though even north of the border there are not thought to be more than 3,000 of them. A survey of the woodlands of Wales between June and October of last year showed that no viable population of the animals remained in the Principality, although a few individuals may still exist.

The main signs of pine marten presence are their droppings, known as scats,

which have a distinctive shape and smell. The survey team found only three fresh scats in widely separate areas and received only two reports of sightings of the animals.

Paul Bright, a biologist at the University of London, who was involved in the survey, said: "We cannot say that the pine marten is extinct in Wales, but it would be a brave person who suggested that it could survive. Its decline there looks irreversible."

Pine martens were previously thought to be faring rather better in Wales, with its more wooded countryside, than in England. Tony Mitchell-Jones, chief mammal ecologist at English Nature, which advises the Government on wildlife conservation, said: "The situation is clearly a lot worse than we thought."

English Nature and the People's Trust for Endangered Species are funding a £20,000 project to find out why pine martens are increasing in Scotland when they have all but disappeared elsewhere.

Pine martens (*Martes martes*) are close cousins of badgers, otters and polecats. In the Middle Ages they were hunted for their fur which was so highly prized that only royalty was allowed to wear it.

Their preferred habitat is woodland and they spend most of the day in their lairs in hollow trees, rock fissures or disused birds' nests.



The pine marten: its fur was prized by royalty

Fishermen fear shorter season will sink coracle

BY A STAFF REPORTER

CORACLE netmen say that their ancient tradition is facing a new threat over plans to shorten their fishing season. The 12 remaining coraclemen on the River Towy in South Wales say the cut could force them off the river for good.

The National Rivers Authority is considering closing the river to coracles during August to preserve salmon stocks — cutting a month from the 54-month season. The Carmarthen Netmen Association says the Towy coraclemen took only 28 salmon from the river last August and denied that their fishing endangered stocks.

Mike Elias, secretary of the association, said: "Anglers took 500 salmon from the Towy last September and 22 in October so if the NRA want to be conservation-minded they should start with them."

The dispute comes amid a continuing campaign to have coracle licence fees reduced to save the tradition. Coraclemen catch salmon by stringing a net between two boats to snare the fish as they travel upstream.

More than 200 worked the Towy a century ago but by 1929 the number of licences had dropped to 25. The Towy is one of three rivers in Wales where coracle fishing licences are granted.



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Radio 1 falls further beneath waves

BY LIN JENKINS

ANOTHER 190,000 listeners deserted BBC Radio 1 in the final quarter of 1994, signalling a decline of 5.5 million in two years.

The departure of the station's most popular disc jockey, Steve Wright, the 40-year-old breakfast presenter, after 14 years is also expected to have an adverse impact on listener numbers, especially if a rumoured move to the new rival Talk Radio goes ahead.

The fall in the station's audience, from 14.2 million to 11 million in the past year, has been blamed largely on changes introduced by Matthew Bannister, the station controller. In the final quarter of 1992, Radio 1 had an audience of 16.5

million. Sue Farr, head of marketing and publicity at BBC Network Radio, said the downward trend, shown in the figures released yesterday by Radio Joint Audience Research, would be halted "in the next few months".

An advertising campaign is to be launched this week at an estimated cost of £2 million. "Having got the network into shape we feel it is right to communicate to listeners where they can find it and what the programmes are," Ms Farr said.

Overall, BBC Network Radio gained an extra 175,000 listeners, according to the figures, enabling the BBC to hold its share at 48.6 per cent. Between the

second and third quarter of last year, its share fell from 54.9 per cent.

Commercial radio attracted an extra 316,000 listeners, taking it to 28 million. BBC Radio 5 Live and Radio 2 both gained listeners. The former, which was revamped as a 24-hour news and sport network last March, made record ratings of 4.7 million. Radio 2 had 480,000 more listeners and is closing the gap with Radio 1. It is just over two million behind with 8.8 million. Radio 3 and Radio 4 audiences stayed steady with 2.5 and 8.4 million respectively. BBC local radio increased from 9.4 to 9.6 million.

Radio, page 46

Tory MP criticises Brooke's praise for IRA apologist

BY NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A TORY MP joined Unionists yesterday in criticising Peter Brooke after he praised Gerry Adams as "a brave man" for helping to bring about the IRA ceasefire.

Mr Brooke, a former Northern Ireland Secretary, said last night that Mr Adams, president of Sinn Féin, had led the IRA across a "Rubicon". He told the BBC television programme *Panorama*: "He had a leadership role. He performed it. I think the whole of Ireland and the whole of these islands, and I think arguably the whole of the world, is grateful to him for having done it."

Andrew Hunter, chairman of the Tory Northern Ireland Committee, responded to Mr Brooke's comments by pointing out that Mr Adams had defended "the most hideous crimes imaginable". In a statement entitled "Mr Adams and the IRA: A Different View", Mr Hunter said: "We should not forget that for 25 years Mr Adams has been a leading spokesman of an organisation which has sought to justify murder, violence and destruction... While welcoming his involvement in the decision to suspend violence the scales remain heavily weighted against him."

Mr Brooke, regarded by

nationalists as the most flexible Northern Ireland Secretary, was replaced by Sir Patrick Mayhew in 1992. On last night's programme, he said: "In my view [Gerry Adams] was a brave man — and I hope he will be justified. That step [the ceasefire] was a crucial step... He led them across that Rubicon."

Peter Robinson, deputy leader of the Democratic Unionists, said that Mr Brooke's comments were part of a Government's tactic to prop up Mr Adams. "They are preparing the public mind for when government ministers sit down with the IRA when they haven't met the conditions that were set."

Mr Robinson added that Mr Brooke caused great offence in Northern Ireland in January 1992 when he sang on Irish television hours after eight Protestant workers had been killed in an IRA bomb attack. "When people were being butchered in Northern Ireland we had a Secretary of State who performed a song-and-dance routine on a chat show. This time he is singing the praises of Gerry Adams."

However, John Taylor, the Ulster Unionist MP for Strangford, struck a more conciliatory note, describing Mr Brooke's comments as

premature. "Gerry Adams is... now going through a period of conversion in the hope of qualifying as a democratic politician. He has reached the stage of political purgatory. A few years ago he was in political hell; we wait to see whether he reaches political heaven."

When asked about Mr Brooke's comments, Mr Adams said that it was the IRA that had been brave. "The credit — if credit is the word — for the IRA cessation must be given to the men and women of the IRA."

"I think it is for the British Government to show bravery and embrace this peace process in a generous and flexible way," he added. "The Government's 'begging' attitude to the peace process was the only threat to its success."

He was speaking in West Belfast as he accompanied Berrie Aherne, leader of Fianna Fáil, on a tour of nationalist areas of the city. Mr Aherne, who became the first leader of Fianna Fáil to visit Belfast City Hall after his meeting with Mr Adams, said he did not believe that the British Government was stalling the peace process.

Leading article, page 21



How impartial outsider could help to restore MPs' public standing

The political world is in a tizzy. Long-standing assumptions about acceptable behaviour are being challenged, not by a Ross Perot type populist but by an establishment inquiry. After two weeks of public hearings by the Nolan committee, the question is not whether the rules on MPs' outside interests should be tightened, but how. Lord Nolan's comments have caused a flurry of concern among ministers and senior MPs.

Parliament has a case to answer. Its public standing has fallen. The extent of abuse, and the amounts earned by MPs from consultancies, are unknown. But the rules need to be clarified if Parliament is to regain public confidence. The prior issue, however, is what sort of MPs do we want? The idea of the citizen legislator was always much exaggerated, and is now dead. The balance has

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

shifted towards career politicians because of the increased demands of the Commons and constituency work. Such MPs often have limited non-political experience. So if they want to top up their salaries, it is tempting to take up contacts with lobbyists eager for access to Westminster.

Few would argue that MPs should have no outside interests. That would make Parliament even more unrepresentative. Rather, the Commons should comprise MPs with a wide variety of backgrounds. Tony Benn told the inquiry last Thursday that as a result of outside involvement members often acquired "valuable experience which helps with their parliamentary work", though he stressed the crucial importance of fuller disclosure.

The principles are straightforward. *Erskine May* says: "To guard against indirect influence if [the Commons] has forbidden the acceptance of fees by members for professional services connected with proceedings in Parliament." This was devised in the 19th century to prevent MPs from appearing as counsel before the House on private Bills promoting railways and similar public works. In 1947, the Commons resolved that MPs should not "enter into any contractual agreement with an outside body controlling or limiting the member's complete independence and freedom of action in Parliament; the duty of a member being to his constituents and to the country as a whole, rather than to any particular section thereof." That notion was qualified when the register of members' interests was set up 20 years ago, since its creation in effect legitimised the existence of such commercial interests.

The growth in MPs' lobbying activities is analogous to the advocacy by an MP of an interest for money, as barred by these earlier rulings. An MP should not receive additional payment for undertaking parliamentary duties: asking questions, raising matters in the Commons, booking rooms or arranging meetings with ministers. These activities derive solely from a person's privileged access as an MP. This is comparable to the local government rule barring a councillor from speaking or voting on any matter where he or she has an interest. Such a definition

avoids the need to draw up complicated rules which are bound to be flawed. There is no longer a clear line between specialised lobbyists and firms of management consultants, lawyers and accountants which engage in lobbying.

Parliament jealously defends self-regulation. Hence the alarm among MPs when Lord Nolan raised the possibility of introducing an independent element. The current oversight machinery is fallible; rules are changed in response to scandals and then only minimally. Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith, chairman of the members' interests committee, has admitted the problem of having to act as detective, judge and jury. In line with the general trend towards impartial external scrutiny, there is a case for outside involvement in inquiries, along the lines of the ethics advisory office suggested by Ann Taylor, Shadow Leader of the Commons. The final decisions would be taken by MPs themselves, as now.

Such an approach, coupled with fuller disclosure, should provide an acceptable basis for defining what MPs are allowed to do. But it would be counterproductive to produce such tight rules that talented people are discouraged from becoming MPs. Barriers to entry need to be lowered, not raised. MPs should be paid more, should be allowed to pursue outside interests, but should not then profit from their position.

PETER RIDDELL

Bottomley attacks Beckett on union link

BY NICHOLAS WOOD
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

VIRGINIA BOTTOMLEY challenged Margaret Beckett yesterday to renounce her trade union sponsorship, launching a pre-emptive strike before today's debate on the health service.

Mrs Beckett, the Shadow Health Secretary, who is sponsored by the transport workers' union, will lead a Labour assault on "dogma-driven" reforms claiming that the shift to "local health businesses" is jeopardising the existence of a countrywide NHS. But yesterday the Health Secretary went on the attack, sending Mrs Beckett a two-page letter accusing her of having no policies on health and emphasising that the Government had cut waiting times for operations and increased rates of immunisation for children.

Pointing out that Mrs Beckett and her frontbench team were all sponsored by trade unions, Mrs Bottomley said that they would lack all credibility unless they severed links that generate funds for their constituency parties. "I believe that it is important that the Labour Party puts itself above any suspicion that its policies are dictated by the trade unions and formulated to meet their interests," Mrs Bottomley wrote. She also challenged Mrs Beckett to say whether she still believed that the health service needed an extra £6 billion a year.

Mrs Bottomley accused Mrs Beckett of planning to break up the NHS by handing it over to regional assemblies, with power given to bureaucrats and Labour councillors. She claimed that in the view of a growing number of independent commentators, scrapping the reforms would lead to turmoil within the service.

Mrs Beckett said that Mrs Bottomley's letter was "a propaganda gesture". She added: "It is not meant to be taken seriously and considering the series of disasters last week in the NHS, I am surprised even she wants to go on with her so-called reforms."

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY, in the Commons, questions to National Heritage Ministers, Church Commissioners and the Lord Chancellor's Department were followed by an emergency question to Brian Mawhinney, the Transport Secretary, on security in the Channel Tunnel. There was then a debate on the Commons stage of the Finance Bill.

In the Lords, there were debates on the Agricultural Tenancies Bill and on Education Regulations. TODAY, in the Commons, there will be questions to Trade and Industry Ministers followed by a debate on the Committee of Selection, chaired by Tony Newton, Leader of the House. David Curry, Local Government Minister, will introduce the Cleveland (Structural Change) Order, which will initiate the break-up of the county. This will be followed by the VAT (Building and Land Order and VAT (Transport) Order. The Lords will debate the Government's forestry review, pending in London, and the Central European Time Bill.

SNP denies devolution shift

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

ALEX SALMOND, leader of the Scottish National Party, yesterday denied that he was "going soft" on devolution in an attempt to halt a decline in SNP support and win over Labour voters.

In an apparent policy shift, Mr Salmond is reported to have said that it is valid to negotiate for independence after achieving a majority of Scottish members in a de-

volved parliament in Edinburgh. He said that the SNP "must not get hung up on the route" to achieving its goal of independence.

Calum Smith, an SNP spokesman, said: "We have always said, and Alex said it again at the weekend, that we are not a pro-devolution party. We support independence in Europe. However, if there were to be a Scottish Assembly

established by a future Labour government we would stand for election to it on an independence ticket."

Yesterday George Robertson, the Shadow Scottish Secretary, said: "The Scottish people will see through this strategy of desperation which is based on supporting and then subverting the devolved parliament as a dishonest route to separation."

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£50,000+	7.15	-	5.36	-	7.00	-	6.85	-	5.14	-
£25,000+	6.90	-	5.18	-	6.75	-	6.60	-	4.95	-
£10,000+	6.65	-	4.99	-	6.50	-	6.40	-	4.84	-
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£25,000+	6.71	-	5.05	-	6.56	-	6.42	-	4.82	-
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£25,000+	6.01	6.10	4.51	4.56	5.23	5.30	5.82	5.90	4.37	4.42
£10,000+	5.82	5.90	4.14	4.18	4.94	5.00	5.52	5.60	4.14	4.18
£5,000+	4.79	4.85	3.59	3.62	4.60	4.65	4.71	4.76	3.53	3.56
£500+	4.55	4.60	3.41	3.44	4.45	4.50	4.40	4.45	3.30	3.33
Monthly Income Option										
£50,000+	6.17	6.35	4.63	4.73	5.32	5.45	5.98	6.15	4.49	4.58
£25,000+	5.94	6.10	4.46	4.55	5.18	5.30	5.75	5.90	4.31	4.40
£10,000+	5.46	5.60	4.10	4.18	4.89	5.00	5.46	5.60	4.10	4.18
£5,000+	4.75	4.85	3.56	3.62	4.55	4.65	4.86	4.76	3.50	3.56
£500+	4.51	4.60	3.38	3.43	4.41	4.50	4.36	4.45	3.27	3.32
INSTANT XTRA PLUS*										
£25,000+	5.50	-	4.13	-	5.15	-	5.25	-	3.94	-
£10,000+	5.10	-	3.83	-	4.75	-	5.00	-	3.75	-
£5,000+	4.65	-	3.40	-	4.35	-	4.45	-	3.34	-
£2,500+	4.50	-	3.38	-	4.25	-	4.25	-	3.19	-
£500+	4.25	-	3.19	-	4.00	-	4.00	-	3.00	-
£50+	1.00	-	0.75	-	1.00	-	1.00	-	0.75	-
ASSET RESERVE CHEQUE ACCOUNT										
£50,000+	6.55	6.50	4.76	4.85	6.35	6.50	5.75	5.88	4.31	4.38
£25,000+	6.00	6.14	4.50	4.58	6.00	6.14	5.25	5.35	3.94	4.00
£10,000+	5.65	5.77	4.24	4.31	5.65	5.77	5.00	5.09	3.75	3.80
£5,000+	5.00	5.09	3.75	3.80	5.00	5.09	4.75	4.84	3.56	3.61
YOUNG SAVERS										
Minimum rates for under 21s on new accounts	4.25	4.30	3.19	3.22	4.25	4.30	-	-	-	-
MAXIM										
£2,000+	1.50	1.51	1.15	1.14	-	-	-	-	-	-
£50+	0.75	0.75	0.56	0.56	-	-	-	-	-	-
CARD CASH										
£50+	0.75	0.75	0.56	0.56	0.75	0.75	-	-	-	-
DEPOSIT										
£50+	1.00	1.00	0.75	0.75	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.75	0.75
MATURED GUARANTEED RESERVE*										
£10,000+	5.10	-	3.83	-	5.10	-	5.10	-	3.83	-
£2,000+	4.45	-	3.54	-	4.45	-	4.45	-	3.54	-
Monthly Income										
£10,000+	4.98	-	3.74	-	4.98	-	4.98	-	3.74	-
£2,000+	4.36	-	3.27	-	4.36	-	4.36	-	3.27	-
CLOSED ISSUES										
Paid-Up Share	1.00	1.00	0.75	0.75	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.75	0.75
Instant Xtra										
£10,000+	3.90	-	2.93	-	3.90	-	-	-	-	-
£5,000+	3.40	-	2.55	-	3.40	-	-	-	-	-
£2,000+	3.15	-	2.36	-	3.15	-	-	-	-	-
£500+	2.65	-	1.99	-	2.65	-	-	-	-	-
Monthly Savings										
7 Day Xtra	1.85	1.86	1.46	1.47	1.85	1.86	-	-	-	-
28 Day Xtra	2.30	2.31	1.73	1.74	2.30	2.31	-	-	-	-
Special Investment Account (1st Issue)	3.00	3.02	2.25	2.26	3.00	3.02	-	-	-	-
Special Investment Account (2nd Issue)	2.50	2.52	1.89	1.89	2.50	2.52	-	-	-	-
5 Year Term Share	3.00	3.02	2.28	2.28	3.00	3.02	-	-	-	-
Subscription Share	1.65	1.66	1.24	1.24	1.65	1.66	-	-	-	-
Matured Subscription Share	1.65	1.66	1.24	1.24	1.65	1.66	-	-	-	-

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Rail sale 'may lead to service increase'

BY NICHOLAS WOOD

THE prospect of rail privatisation leading to an increase in trains will be held out by the Transport Secretary today when minimum service standards are unveiled for the first four routes to be sold off.

Labour is planning to attack the announcement from Roger Salmon, the Franchise Director, as heralding big cuts in services. But Brian Mawhinney hopes to spike Opposition guns by pointing to indications from train operators that they will maintain the current service and run extra trains.

Train-operating companies will be under a contractual responsibility to run a specified number of trains. But Dr Mawhinney hopes to win popular support for the rail sell-off by highlighting the readiness of the companies to improve levels of service. The new passenger service requirements (PSRs) will apply to Gatwick Express, Great Western, South West and London, Tilbury and Southend.

Where routes require subsidy, as on rural and commuter lines, companies will be required to maintain the existing service. But where they are potentially profit-making, as on the InterCity routes, the PSR will be set at a lower level than the existing timetable to encourage operators to expand services so as to appeal to passengers. In the four cases to be announced today, the Transport Secretary believes he has sufficient signs from the operators to refute claims that the arrangements are a smokescreen for cuts.

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Hopes of party unity on Europe suffered severe blow in a crucial Cabinet meeting

Major's change to the sceptic cause opens new wounds

FOR the first time in many months, events were going John Major's way. After a grim year for his premiership and poll ratings of under 20 per cent, Labour's overwhelming lead was at last being dented as splits in its leadership mounted.

The new-found Tory unity no longer seemed a will o' the wisp... until last Thursday's Cabinet meeting.

Mr Major had not been idle over new year at Chequers. As he reflected on the state of his party over Europe, he concluded that the new year must mark a new beginning.

In late November, he had allowed himself to be guided by Kenneth Clarke over the Bill increasing Britain's contribution to the EU budget. The Chancellor, and the so-called "inner Cabinet" dominated by pro-European heavyweights such as Douglas Hurd and Michael Heseltine, backed him and pushed for the expulsion of the rebels.

The unintended consequence by Christmas was a Government reeling from defeat after defeat at the mercy of nine whipless rebels who were prepared to ambush ministers at every turn. In his heart of hearts, Mr Major knew that true blue Conservatives such as Nicholas Budge, should never have been expelled from the fold.

The Prime Minister's response was not long in coming. He had already put down a Euro-sceptic marker in his speech in Leiden in September. He rejected the idea of an exclusive inner core of countries forging towards full integration, leaving others as backmarkers; opposed further powers for the European Parliament; backed co-operation rather than majority voting in foreign and defence policy; and poured cold water on the

Martin Ivens and Nicholas Wood, Chief Political Correspondent, look at how the Cabinet came to embrace Euro-scepticism

notion of a swift move towards a single currency. But it was Mr Major's interview with Sir David Frost on January 8 that marked his decisive move towards the sceptic camp. "I will not accept constitutional change that impacts upon the British Parliament," he said, citing the ending of the British veto, an extension of qualified majority voting, big new powers for the European Parliament and a "firm commitment" to a single currency as items he would veto.

He went even further on the

6 In his heart of hearts, Mr Major knew that the true blue Conservatives should never have been expelled 9

monetary front, saying that there was "no question of a single currency by 1996 or 1997". Mr Clarke, whose support for European currency union is enthusiastic in *camera*, was for once in no position to put up a fight. Mr Heseltine was torn between his old friends among the Euro-enthusiasts and his new friends on the Tory right. The sceptics in the Cabinet, the so-called "bastards", were tired of being considered extremists, were not prepared to resign or treat openly with the rebels, and instead wanted to help the Prime Minister to bring them back in.

Meanwhile, in King

Charles Street, Douglas Hurd and his officials were working on a position paper to be put to the Cabinet later that month. As it turned out, they were to pay too little attention to the shift in mood signalled by the Prime Minister on Sir David's comfy sofa.

Accounts vary about what happened in the two-hour discussion at last Thursday's Cabinet meeting. But as *The Times* reported on Friday morning, Euro-sceptics were jubilant about the outcome and adamant that Mr Hurd's paper had been given a severe mauling. Before the meeting their hopes had been tempered by fears that Mr Major's conversion might not prove genuine and would turn out to be another of his tactical feints in the pursuit of party unity.

The paper sketched out three possible approaches to the intergovernmental conference next year that will chart the next stage in the European venture. One was a minimalist position in which Britain would play a straight bat and hope to get away its partners' more ambitious demands. The second was maximalist, in which the Government would go in guns blazing, making a string of demands intended to reverse the federalist tide. The third, favoured by the Foreign Secretary, was a middle way. The Cabinet, reflecting the Prime Minister's tough new line, veered towards the maximalist position, commissioning new strategies for recouping power from Brussels.

Criticism of Mr Hurd's paper had been led by the five

sceptics in the Cabinet: Michael Portillo, Peter Lilley, John Redwood, Jonathan Aitken and Michael Howard. But others followed. David Hunt and Gillian Shephard were among those to press for a tougher approach to the intergovernmental conference.

Douglas Hurd maintains that his paper was well received and is confident from his reading of Cabinet minutes that no "rebuff" was delivered. Others say that it was the language, not the substance of the paper, which seemed objectionable and dated.

The Tory right made wild boasts along the lines of "we are all bastards now" and claimed that the Cabinet had undergone a Damascus conversion to the sceptic cause.

The truth is murkier. Political calculations about the mood of the Tory backbenchers and a popular opinion all played a part. Many Tory MPs believed that Cabinet moderates such as Malcolm Rifkind began to modify their rhetoric about Europe as Mr Hurd's future became less certain after reports of his impending retirement.

The disclosures by *The Times* prompted a swift chain reaction in which a furious Foreign Secretary demanded an immediate and categorical denial of the story. While he was prepared to accede in the transition to a more sceptical stance, he was damned if he was to be publicly humiliated into the bargain. Downing

Street's embarrassment was compounded by the fact that at the crucial Cabinet meeting Mr Major had insisted on a confidentiality pact about their proceedings. The Prime

6 The Foreign Secretary was damned if he was going to be publicly humiliated 9

Minister called the *Times*' report "a travesty". Meanwhile, the Foreign Secretary's friends swiftly identified a "dirty tricks" operation by the right to discredit

the Mr Hurd and replace him with a more anti-European figure.

By last weekend, the pro-Europeans were on the war-path. Ted Heath, seeing his former aide "radioed" in the press, came roaring in. Peter Hordern, Tim Renton and others joined the fray. Lord Howe, however, has told friends that his speech on Europe was not part of a plot: it had been planned for some time in advance and his article in the *Financial Times* was commissioned last Wednesday, prior to the Cabinet's meeting. Jacques Santer, the EC President, made some anodyne comments about Europe in Davos, but such was the media frenzy by then that his words were miscon-

strued as being a challenge to Mr Major and Britain.

The question worrying Mr Major now is whether the likes of Ted Heath, Tim Renton and Sir Peter Hordern and their Cabinet allies can make as much trouble for him as the "bastards". He may conclude that most of the intake to the Commons from 1979 is mildly Euro-sceptical in belief and that the most eloquent and influential Euro-enthusiasts are on the point of retirement. Others believe that only a restatement by the Prime Minister of the line he indicated in his *Economist* article and in Leiden can preserve Tory unity.

Malcolm Rifkind, page 20
Leader and letters, page 21



Mr Major makes a point to Sir David Frost in the television interview that was seen as marking his decisive move towards the sceptic camp

Man in the News

Wolf in sheep's clothing strikes again

By ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

DENIS HEALEY got it wrong when he called Geoffrey Howe a dead sheep. Lord Howe is a live and subtle wolf, who having savaged Margaret Thatcher in his resignation speech in just 17 minutes, yesterday attacked another Prime Minister.

Claiming that John Major was putting "party unity at any price" before national interests, Lord Howe raised his standard as the leader of the recalcitrant Euro-enthusiasts in the Tory party.

Lady Thatcher's former Foreign Secretary said British foreign policy was being "dragged into a ghetto of sentimentality and self-delusion" and claimed Mr Major had become a hostage to the Euro-sceptics, taking a tougher stance on closer ties with Europe purely to entice the

nine rebel MPs back into the parliamentary party.

Yesterday the new pro-European leader managed to get on more programmes than his Euro-sceptic enemies and self-publicist supremos MPs Bill Cash and Theresa Gorman. At 7.00am he was telling BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme: "If we depart from the commonsense of the middle ground, we risk not only losing our place in Europe but we risk losing our position in the minds of the British people."

By lunchtime, Lord Howe whose new coat of arms includes a wolf in sheep's clothing, was taking his pro-European message to middle England and a London Rotary Club lunch at the Marriott Hotel in an attempt to woo them. At first the Rotary club



Howe: convincing and emotive speech

was not at all sure that a multi-speed Europe, with Britain excluded from the heart of the decision-making process, would be a "national tragedy" of huge proportions. Per-Olov Emanuelson, an interior

designer from London, remained unconvinced: "Geoffrey Howe was the man who bought in the limp, maroon European-style passport. I am not a natural European and I certainly don't want a single European currency."

However, by the time Lord Howe had finished many had been persuaded. In a speech as emotive as any Euro-sceptic's, Lord Howe concluded: "It is the Treaty of Rome that has enabled us to contain nationalism and retain patriotism. Without participation in Europe we will face the risk of conflict and the risk of having no influence."

"I would far rather we were in there negotiating over foreign and defence policy than having it designed for us by the French and Germans," he said.

Cook dismisses talk of superstate and move to a single currency

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ROBIN COOK yesterday rejected moves to a European federal superstate and dismissed calls by the French and Germans to bring in a single currency by 1997 as "totally irresponsible".

Adopting a distinctly sceptical tone, the Shadow Foreign Secretary said that there was little prospect of European monetary union before the turn of the century.

In his first major speech on Europe since he took the foreign affairs portfolio, Mr Cook insisted that a Labour government would only adopt a single currency if the economic conditions were right.

Speaking at a seminar in London he argued that the advantages would only be turned into real benefits if British industry was able to compete within a single currency without resorting to occasional devaluation.

Labour would judge whether Britain should be part of any future single currency on economic conditions relating to productivity, growth and jobs and not on the present criteria of financial targets.

He rejected the call by Jacques Santer, the new European Commission President,

to speed progress towards a single currency by 1997. "A single currency is not going to happen this year or next year and frankly I would be surprised if it happens in 1997," he said.

Later he added: "It would be totally irresponsible for anybody to set a specific timetable on it now." Mr Cook stuck to Labour policy but took a more sceptical line than Jack Cunningham, his predecessor.

With both parties now vying for a more Eurosceptic electorate Mr Cook's speech reflects Tony Blair's concern that Labour needs to shed its caricature as the "poodle" of Brussels.

While Mr Cook argues that he is a "realist" rather than a "sceptic", he is determined to shake off Labour's federalist image. Labour would sign up to the Social Chapter on workers' rights and put unemployment at the top of its priorities, he said. But Mr Cook insisted that politicians should listen to growing fears about the power of Brussels across the Continent. "Europe must be a community of free member states. Labour rejects the concept of a European superstate," he said. "The European Union

must be based on a sharing of national interests."

Labour would judge each proposal for the intergovernmental conference in 1996 by the test of whether it would advance the interests of the people of Britain. He said that Labour was determined that decision-making in Europe should be more open and more democratic. "As a working principle, national parliaments should have increased influence over the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament should have wider scrutiny of the Commission."

Mr Cook argued that Labour was committed to retaining the veto over matters of vital national interest, such as decisions over the budget or revisions to the Treaty. "But the veto is not some kind of trump card that can be played repeatedly to take every trick. To get agreement on the reforms Europe needs we must mobilise a majority for a decision."

Mr Cook accused the Cabinet of failing to put forward a single positive proposal. In contrast Labour would ensure that Britain took the lead in Europe by setting a positive agenda for reform, he said.



Robin Cook, who rejected the call by Jacques Santer, the new EC President, for a single currency by 1997

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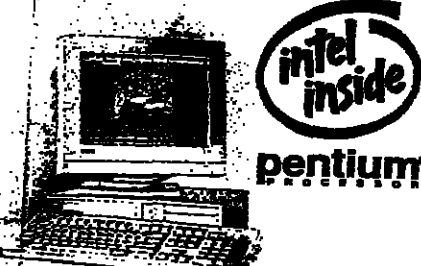
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War intensifies as Peru and Ecuador launch air raids

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN LIMA

FIGHTING between Peruvian and Ecuadorian troops intensified yesterday as both sides launched air and mortar attacks on each other's border posts in a mountainous region of the Amazon rain forest.

Ministry officials from both sides said that at least 60 soldiers had been killed in four days of fighting triggered by a longstanding border dispute. The latest reports say hand-to-hand fighting, backed by helicopter raids, had broken out yesterday along the shores of the River Cenepa, which flows along the Cordillera del Condor mountain range which is at the centre of the hostilities.

As fighting intensified, the Ecuadorian Government announced a new 10 per cent tax on fuel and luxury goods to fund the war.

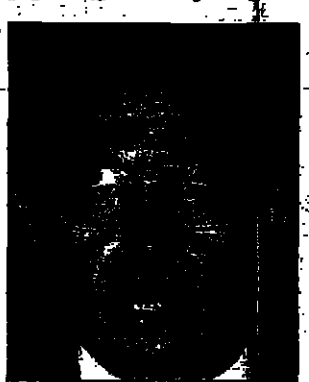
"These are urgent and necessary measures we are taking to defend our rights," said Enrique Proano, Ecuador's government spokesman. Despite efforts from leaders of neighbouring Bolivia, Colombia, and Brazil calling for an end to the conflict, there is as yet no end to the fighting in sight.

The armed conflict broke out on Thursday just before the anniversary on January 29 of the signing of a 1942 Rio de Janeiro protocol treaty which defines the border limits between the two Andean countries, and gave half of Ecuador to Peru.

The treaty was signed after a 1940-41 border war but

successive Ecuadorian Governments have rejected a clause in the treaty which leaves the possession of a 50-mile stretch of jungle ambiguous. In 1981, there were bloody clashes along the border over the dispute, but the conflict has never reached these heights before.

President Durán Ballén of Ecuador said President Fujimori of Peru are accusing each other of starting this latest round of hostilities. President Durán accuses President Fujimori of fuelling the armed conflict to heighten his popularity in Peru just before



Fujimori: accused of pre-election populism

general elections in April. Military reports from Lima and Quito have also been contradictory. The Peruvian armed forces claim that an Ecuadorian helicopter invaded their territory on Thursday, launching bomb attacks on border camps. The Ecuadorian side yesterday accused Peru of launching a "massive offensive" against the Macas region of Ecuador.

There were gunfire and mortar exchanges with some of our camps, which were destroyed," said General José Grijalva of Ecuador. He also said that Ecuadorian troops had bombed a Peruvian army base on the opposite side of the border and shot down two helicopters on Sunday afternoon.

President Fujimori has mobilised more than 100,000 soldiers to the conflict area and has ordered the evacuation of civilians from the small northern border towns of Aguas Verdes and Zarumilla. Ecuadorian defence ministry officials also said they have evacuated most of the civilian population in their southern province of El Oro, an oil-rich area along the Amazon. Both countries have closed their borders and prohibited trade with the other side.

Efforts by the Organisation of American States (OAS) and the United Nations to mediate have so far been rejected. President Fujimori insists that he will only accept the involvement of the four guarantors of the Rio de Janeiro protocol treaty, and said: "Peru will defend its sovereignty rights until the end."

He demanded that the guarantors — the United States, Argentina, Brazil, and Chile — put a definition on the border limits which still remain undecided.



Peruvian soldiers move a cannon as fighting between infantry and helicopter gunships intensified on the disputed border with Ecuador

UN makes guarantors responsible for Peru deal

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

ECUADOR and Peru traded charges at the United Nations yesterday over their clashes along their disputed border, but the Security Council decided not to get involved.

Instead, the four guarantors of the 1942 border agreement between Ecuador and Peru — Argentina, Brazil,

Chile and the United States — will bear primary responsibility for finding a settlement. "Those four countries have been continuously in contact with both countries, and both countries have expressed their consensus to the effect that that mechanism be used," said Ernesto Cardenas, Argentina's UN Ambassador and this month's President of the Security Council. In rival letters to the council,

Ecuador and Peru each accused the other of crossing into its territory along the Cenepa river in the disputed area. "My country has been the victim of armed aggression by Ecuador, whose troops committed an incursion into Peruvian territory in violation of the border definitively established by the Rio de Janeiro Protocol of 1942 and the Arbitral Award of Braz Diaz de Aguiar," wrote Eduardo Ponce, Peru's

Foreign Minister. Galo Leoro, the Foreign Minister of Ecuador, said the first clash had occurred on January 9 when a four-man Peruvian army patrol was captured north of Cueva de los Tayos on the upper Cenepa river — "an area which has traditionally been in the possession of Ecuador."

He said that Ecuador had been compelled to respond to when Peru "launched military operations".

Cross-party condemnation for Clinton's Mexican rescue plan

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

CONGRESSMEN from both parties have attacked President Clinton's rescue package for Mexico.

Despite two weeks of intense debate, in which Mr Clinton has argued that his \$40 billion (26 billion) loan guarantees to help Mexico out of its financial crisis is primarily aimed at saving jobs and preventing large-scale immigration to the United States, Democratic and Republican congressional leaders alike have said the proposal may not even come to the vote.

"We're seeing a real failure of presidential leadership and I think a lot of Americans are going to lose their jobs as a result," Senator Phil Gramm, the Texas Republican, said. "Where the President has utterly failed in convincing anybody that we have a coherent programme."

The senior Democratic senator, Sam Nunn, said the Administration had failed to

communicate what would happen if Mexico was not bailed out. "Anyone voting for it is going to have to hold their nose because this is not what the public wants, but neither does the public want thousands of immigrants coming across the border."

Neither side doubts the effect that inaction would have



Gram: Americans will forfeit their jobs

on the American economy or that failure to intervene in the financial markets could result in what the White House has described as an imminent national security threat. It is the first time since the Cold War that both parties have failed to support the President over a financial intervention in such circumstances. Republicans and Democrats are not convinced that the package would save many permanent jobs.

Mr Clinton, who was working the telephones over the weekend in an effort to win agreement, yesterday urged state governors to endorse his strategy. "I realise that it's not politically popular back home. It's rather a complex issue. But it is clearly in the interests of American workers, American businesses and the United States as a whole," he said. "I want to emphasise that the stabilisation initiative is not a gift, not a loan, not a bail-out."

It is a loan guarantee. The President has much persuading still to do. Both Newt Gingrich, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Bob Dole, the Senate majority leader, have pulled back from their earlier promises to support Mr Clinton in pushing the package through.

By issuing loan guarantees, the Clinton Administration hopes to prevent any further run on the peso by assuring the international community that the Mexican currency has the full backing of the United States. At the same time, officials say that American taxpayers could profit because Mexico would be forced to pay large fees for the loan guarantees. The scepticism being voiced by so many in Congress, however, makes it almost inevitable that the White House will rethink the package this week and produce a scheme more palatable to Capitol Hill.



Kemp: "will not seek party nomination"

Kemp 'out of White House race'

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN WASHINGTON

JACK KEMP, who was President Bush's Housing Secretary, has decided not to seek the 1996 Republican presidential nomination, party sources said yesterday.

As he deliberated in recent weeks Mr Kemp, 59, told associates he was not sure his message would fit with the aggressive stance of Republicans in the House of Representatives. He has said that tax cuts to stimulate the economy should take precedence over balancing the budget. He has also been concerned that the campaign requirements of fundraising and travelling would mean spending at least a year away from his family.

The 1996 election jockeying is off to an early start. The most active Republican prospects have been the Texas Senator, Phil Gramm; the former Tennessee governor, Lamar Alexander; and the Senate majority leader, Bob Dole. Former Vice President Dan Quayle is also preparing to run. The Pennsylvania senator, Arlen Specter, is also considering a candidacy, as is the conservative commentator Patrick Buchanan.

O.J. Simpson defence claims police planted blood sample

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

DEFENCE lawyers for O.J. Simpson will suggest that the former American football star was framed by Los Angeles police who took a sample of blood to his home instead of the forensic laboratory, it was reported yesterday.

While they were at the Simpson compound the police were said to have been able to create the "trail of blood" that prosecutors in the trial have claimed provides indisputable evidence that the athlete killed his former wife, Nicole and her friend Ronald Goldman.

The revelations came as Judge Lance Ito denied a request from the prosecution for a 30-day delay in proceeding to allow the prosecution time to investigate new witnesses introduced by the defence at the last minute.

Judge Ito said, however, that the so-called "dream team" of defence lawyers had disregarded the law intentionally in its late disclosure of witnesses to "gain an unfair

tactical advantage". Members of the jury would be instructed to discount any mention of the 14 new witnesses, said the judge who, in a five-page ruling, declared that none of them could be called until the end of the defence's case.

The jury were to be told to disregard some of the most important witnesses, including Mary Anne Gersch, a woman who claimed to have seen four men speeding away from the scene, a former maid allegedly struck by Nicole Brown Simpson and a passenger on the Mr Simpson's return flight from Chicago.

His ruling spurred immediate demands from the prosecution for a return to its opening statements to address the issues revealed by the defence.

This would further delay the opening speech by Johnnie Cochran, the lead attorney for Mr Simpson, who was reported by New York Newsday yesterday to be about to

launch an attack on the handling of evidence during the investigation.

Instead of taking a sample of Mr Simpson's blood — drawn the day after the murders — to the laboratory down the road, policemen had driven the test tube halfway across Los Angeles to his mansion in Brentwood.

The police claim the two officers concerned were keen to hand the specimen to the technician in charge of the case, and indeed the amount taken was a fraction of an ounce and therefore not enough to create any damaging evidence.

All experts agree that this single fact has given the defence team an unexpected opening which will allow Mr Cochran to attack the DNA evidence as unreliable. A teaspoon of blood that his client voluntarily gave to police was not taken down the road but was instead driven 20 miles to the scene of a double murder.

Rights group faces chorus of criticism

FROM SHARVILA DEVI IN GENEVA

MORE than 2,000 diplomats and activists are gathering at the 51st Human Rights Commission which officially started here yesterday amid a chorus of criticism that the body is ineffective.

The commission, which has met annually since 1946, hears testimony on grave violations of human rights, but the main difficulty is that its 53 members, consisting mainly of developing countries, have to reach consensus before an issue can even reach the agenda.

"Real issues get lost in negotiated bribery," said one UN diplomat. "One country will say to another, 'I won't bring up your human rights difficulties if you won't mention ours' and any constructive dialogue gets lost." The six-week event is an administrative nightmare, with documentation alone costing \$10 million (£6.5 million).

Between 4,000 and 5,000 pages of reports have to be translated into six languages and reproduced for the 2,000 delegates.

China is the main worry facing the commission this year, and moves to censure Peking for human rights violations are being led by the US. Previous efforts to table resolutions against the Asian giant have stalled and many expect failure again this year.

The human rights group Amnesty International yesterday attacked the UN body, and said: "Time and again members of the commission put their own perceived economic and strategic interests first and accept without question the

excuses of government with abysmal human rights records."

However, one Western diplomat in Geneva defended the annual event: "It's very easy to be cynical but it is a form of pressure as countries don't like being pilloried and singled out."

The Chechenia conflict will feature on this year's agenda. Other issues facing the commission include genocide in Rwanda, reports of ethnic cleansing in the former Yugoslavia and human rights abuses in Iran, Iraq, Algeria, Kashmir and Burma.

Attempts to reform the commission's bureaucracy were led by Peter Van Wuijnen, the outgoing chairman. In his opening address yesterday, he blamed member states for not funding the programme properly.

The judge is expected to tell jurors in a preliminary draft of instructions he will give them after the opening statements that there is no religion on trial here.

The trial is the second chapter in the prosecution of a group allegedly responsible for the 1990 assassination of Rabbi Meir Kahane, the founder of the militant Jewish Defence League, and the February 26, 1993, World Trade Centre bombing in which six people were killed and hundreds injured.

Three followers of Shaikh Rahman and a fourth man were convicted in the trade centre bombing last year and were sentenced to life in prison without remission. Prosecutors said the motive was to punish America for supporting Israel.

The judge in the first trial said the bomb was meant to topple the 110-storey twin towers, a symbol of America's economic might, and kill tens of thousands of people.

One defendant in the current trial, El Sayyid Nosair, an Egyptian, was acquitted in the 1990 assassination trial but was convicted on related weapons charges. Four months after the trade centre bombing, the FBI raided a safehouse in Queens where five defendants now on trial allegedly were mixing explosives to blow up the United Nations, two tunnels connecting Manhattan and New Jersey and FBI headquarters in New York.

Rahman, 56, who is blind, allegedly headed the conspiracy. He claims he is being prosecuted for his beliefs. If convicted, he could face life in prison. But



Rahman: faces life in prison if convicted

Shaikh 'plotted terror campaign in New York'

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN NEW YORK

AN EGYPTIAN cleric and his followers plotted to wage a bloody campaign of bombings and kidnappings in a terrorist war against the American Government, a federal prosecutor told jurors yesterday, the opening day of the trial of Shaikh Omar Abdel-Rahman and 11 of his followers.

"This is a case about war," US Attorney Robert Khuzami said in his opening statement. "The enemy is the United States, the battlefield the streets and tunnels of New York City. The soldiers who fought this war are seated before you."

He described the centrepiece of the conspiracy as a

plan to explode 12 bombs throughout New York City in one day. Targets would have included the United Nations building and two tunnels and a bridge linking Manhattan and New Jersey.

"The case is not about religion or about the great issues of the day," Mr Khuzami said. "It's a simple case of men who planned a war of urban terrorism. They planned to slaughter people as they travelled between New York and New Jersey or sat in office buildings while bombs underground."

In her opening statement, Lynne Stewart, the Shaikh's lawyer — there is one for each defendant — said: "This prosecution is rotten at its core." Shaikh

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Thousands evacuated from homes as swollen rivers cause chaos in four countries

Northern Europe endures 'flood of the century'

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

RAPIDLY rising rivers yesterday propelled a thick muddy sludge into the old town of Cologne, threatened Frankfurt and made virtual islands of small towns on the banks of the Rhine, the Main, the Mosel and the Maas.

Floods have now affected most of northwestern Europe, disrupting train services and motorways to southern Germany, prompting the biggest evacuation in The Netherlands since 1953 and swamping historic cities such as Bruges and Ghent.

Meteorologists gave no solace to the politicians of France, Germany, Belgium and The Netherlands, who held emergency meetings yesterday. The forecast is for more rain.

In eastern France rivers rose and there were fears that high tides on the Atlantic coast could push up water levels further: the Seine has risen by

more than 16ft, flooding nearby roads. In Cologne, the Rhine went up to more than 34ft above sea level, surging into the old town district and flooding restaurants and private homes which have still not dried out since the last flood 13 months ago. This, to the German press, is the "flood of the century", and is certainly the worst since the 1920s. Water lapped at the doors of the German parliament in Bonn yesterday. All the riverside embassies have been evacuated.

France said it would provide emergency financial aid to flood victims in the northeast of the country. "In many areas, we are talking about the flood of the century," a statement from the office of Edouard Balladur, the French Prime Minister, said. "Nearly half the country has been affected."

Since at least 17 people are

reported to have drowned in France, with three more in Germany, the floods are being treated throughout northwestern Europe as a major disaster. Nato Tornado jets are taking photographs of the area under water; the army has been transporting hundreds of thousands of sandbags in one direction and using the same lorries to move people from the danger zone.

The water levels are moving so fast, however, that even the basic aid measures are being overtaken by events: wooden walkways connecting flooded homes have been overwhelmed by the water and some barriers have been pushed aside by the rivers. Cars have tipped into the water and trees have been uprooted.

The work has been made more difficult in Cologne and other German cities by so-called "flood tourists" who have been crowding close to the banks and obstructing rescue work. Reinhard Vogt, head of Cologne's flood protection squad, said that these people had been loosening screws on flood barriers, jumping up and down on sandbags, or even stealing them. "We will take all legal measures to stop such activities," he said.

In Belgium, rescue workers moved people from waterlogged homes in the south of the country as police guarded homes abandoned because of devastating floods. Troops were ordered by the Interior Ministry to protect homes in case criminals start looting houses.

Photograph, page 24



A Dutch couple wade through a street in Geulle yesterday after abandoning their home when the Maas overflowed

US governors win leading roles on political stage

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON hosted the annual White House dinner for America's 50 state governors on Sunday night, but this year the event was charged with a rare political electricity.

Once viewed as relatively minor players by Congress and the White House, the governors are fast becoming a major force in US politics. They are the beneficiaries of the Republicans' drive to diminish Washington's power. They have already in many cases turned their states into laboratories for testing key ideas in the Republicans' national agenda, and several of Mr Clinton's Republican dinner guests are now potential challengers for his job.

William Weld, the popular Governor of formerly-liberal Massachusetts, was there, playing coy with reporters about his 1996 intentions, as was Michigan's John Engler and Wisconsin's Tommy

Thompson who have both built national reputations as pioneers of welfare reform.

The husband of New Jersey's Christine Todd Whitman joked that he had bought his tape measure. George W. Bush of Texas, returning to the White House for the first time since his father's defeat, said as he waited to meet the Clintons: "I've never had to stand in line here before."

Media attention has focused largely on Congress since Newt Gingrich's Republicans snatched control of Capitol Hill in November's elections, but Republicans also snatched a near-record 30 of America's 50 governorships the same day and now form a separate and increasingly assertive power block. They see themselves, not their congressional colleagues, as the cutting edge of the Republican Revolution, as Mrs Whitman made clear last week when she became the first non-congressman to

reply officially to a State of the Union address. She seized the chance to highlight individual Republican governors who were leading the way on cutting taxes, reforming welfare and fighting crime. She has announced plans to redeem her 1993 election pledge of a 30 per cent tax cut a year ahead of schedule.

This new assertiveness has also been much in evidence over the past three days as the National Governors' Association has struggled to agree a united position on reforming a welfare system that almost all agree has failed.

Most Republican governors want Congress to move welfare responsibility from federal Government to the states, and to finance it with grants that the states can spend as they see fit. "If you give us the flexibility, you'd be surprised at how much opportunity there is for new programmes," said Mr Thompson.

'Fat' police sue over expulsions

New York: The police department's effort to shape up its flabby image in New York is being challenged by six recruits who claim they were unfairly expelled from the police academy after flunking a "fat test" (James Bone writes).

Although almost a quarter of New York cops are so overweight that they have difficulty pounding the beat, the six recruits were thrown off the force when doctors found they had too much fat. The six are suing for the right to rejoin a police academy class and resume their chosen careers — once they have slimmed down.

Clinton to extend test moratorium

Washington: President Clinton has decided to extend a moratorium on US nuclear tests beyond this year, Anthony Lake, the National Security Adviser, said yesterday.

Washington wants the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty extended indefinitely but non-aligned states are reluctant to commit themselves to foregoing the weapons while the big five keep theirs. The five are trying to negotiate a test ban treaty, which the non-aligned countries want. (Reuter)

Block collapses

Rio de Janeiro: Twenty-seven people died when a six-storey apartment block collapsed in the Brazilian resort town of Guaratuba. Nine people were rescued. "The entire block was reduced to a pile of rubble and twisted iron," a rescue worker said. In São Paulo, 15 people were killed when a shop illegally selling fireworks exploded. (Reuter)

Rushdie claims Iran's fatwa has outlawed the Flintstones

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE Flintstones, the Stone Age cartoon characters, may have become the latest victim of the Iranian fatwa against Salman Rushdie.

The writer alleges in an interview with Newsweek magazine yesterday that he had been forced to drop the famous Flintstones jingle from his latest book, *East, West*, because of fears of retaliation.

Mr Rushdie wanted to include a portion of the less-than-Satanic verse: *Flintstones! Meet the Flintstones! They're the modern Stone Age family. From the town of Bedrock. They're a page right out of history.*

The lines were to have been used in *The Courtesan*, one of nine short stories in the book, about a romance between an Eastern European porter and an ageing Indian nanny, both of whom are *Flintstones* fans. But Turner Broadcasting,

which has owned the rights to the song since 1991, insisted that the jingle should be excised from the American edition of his book.

Mr Rushdie, who was sentenced to death for blasphemy by the late Ayatollah Khomeini for writing *The Satanic Verses*, suggested that the company refused him permission to use the lines because of fears that Muslim extremists would retaliate against Turner properties such as Cable News Network.

Over the years, Islamic militants have killed the Japanese translator of *The Satanic Verses*, stabbed the Italian one and shot Rushdie's Norwegian publisher. "It sure as hell is chicken shit," Mr Rushdie said of the Turner decision. "If I quoted these lines, somebody would shoot Fred Flintstone!"

Mike Oglesby, a spokesman for Turner Broadcasting, which is owned by Ted Turner, said the company "receives hundreds of requests all the time for use of our properties, which we review on a case-by-case basis."

"Adequate details of how they are going to be used and in what context must be provided," he said.

"Adequate details were not provided, so we declined to participate."



Fred Flintstone: unlikely victim of the ayatollahs

UN laments rise of Europe cocaine sales

FROM REUTERS IN VIENNA

COCAINE, once used mainly in the United States, now poses a growing threat to Europe as drug traffickers open new markets and trade routes, a United Nations report said yesterday.

The study, by the Vienna-based UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs, was presented at the start of a five-day conference of heads of national drug enforcement agencies from 37 countries. "Europe is a secondary but growing market for world cocaine production," the report said. "Transatlantic cocaine traffickers have mirrored heroin syndicates in exploiting new opportunities presented by the opening of Russia and Eastern Europe."

One of the major problems of drug enforcement co-ordination between Western Europe and the former East Bloc and Soviet Union is the control of money laundering, UN sources said. "While

bank secrecy laws are being relaxed where money laundering is suspected in western Europe, former East European, CIS and central Asian states are hesitant to do so, as bank secrecy is still a symbol of a newly acquired market economy and capitalist way of life," one of the sources said.

Relaxed political controls and new, free-market economies have allowed Russian and East European criminal organisations to flourish. They have also made it easier for international drug mafias to link up with local criminals to get up banks and other money laundering institutions, the sources said. Easier border controls and the increasing use of container cargo to move bulk shipments also pose an obstacle to effective drug control.

"Overall the multiplication of actors, routes and methods for transporting

narcotics further complicates the already difficult task of law enforcement," the report said. Apart from heroin and cocaine, law enforcers are faced with the spread of local cannabis cultivation and substances which can be produced in comparatively simple laboratories.

"The advent of new indoor cultivation techniques for the growth of cannabis is the major development on this front," the report said, adding that cannabis cultivation was up to 20 times stronger than the normal plant. "Synthetic drugs seem to have captured a growing share of the youth market in Europe," the report said.

It added: "The wide variety and availability of synthetic drugs will ensure that consumers have many options from which to choose even in the event that significant progress is made in limiting the flow of crop-based narcotics."

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New line of hope for homeless

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

EVEN if they are living in cardboard boxes on the pavement and begging just to get by, a growing number of homeless people in the United States can now receive telephone calls thanks to a new trend in private charity.

Non-profit groups in more than ten cities from Seattle to New York have set up projects to provide people who are down-and-out with

their own telephone answering service. The charities offer homeless people free "voice-mail" at the local telephone company, a service that usually costs subscribers about \$6.50 a month. The homeless each receive their own telephone number and can call a toll-free "800" number to hear their messages.

Charity workers say the schemes dramatically improve a homeless person's chances of getting a job or

finding a flat, as well as improving their self-image by providing one of the necessities of modern living.

The idea was born three years ago in Seattle, when a group called Community Voice Mail assigned 50 "voice mail" boxes to homeless people. The group says that about 80 per cent of the beneficiaries found employment and 60 per cent accommodation. About 700 homeless are now involved in the Seattle scheme.

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Strikes in Pretoria jolt foreign investors

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

A SERIES of strikes involving bloodshed, protests and arrests is threatening to undermine President Mandela's hopes of increasing and sustaining foreign investment in the new South Africa.

Six thousand gold miners, workers in the country's most important industry, yesterday failed to return to work at Vaal Reef's No 8 shaft at Vierfontein in the Orange Free State. The stoppage has produced a spasm of bloody warfare between Xhosa and Sotho tribesmen employed at the mine, and left 12 miners dead after the weekend. According to Anglo American, which owns the mine company, the failure to work dishonoured an agreement reached between management, the National Union of Mineworkers and representatives of the two factions on Sunday.

James Duncan, for Anglo American, said management regarded a return to work as a priority. The union denied last night that a fixed return-to-work deadline had been agreed.

The union also blamed the outbreak of factional fighting on the "inhuman conditions" in which miners were forced to

live in mine hostels. "Mineworkers are kraaled like cattle to be fed and watered before the next shift," Frans Baleni, the union's national organiser, said.

Judith Weymont, for the union, complained: "Thousands upon thousands of men live eight to a room with the barest of facilities, no privacy, and no form of entertainment or recreation except to buy beer from the same company they work for. In such a deprived environment, these kinds of inhuman conditions can only exacerbate any form of disagreement among individuals and small groups."

After a strike by black policemen at a police station in the Orlando area of Soweto, about 400 residents gathered outside the building yesterday to call for the immediate suspension of Brigadier Chris Earle, the district commissioner. The protesters, mainly women, believed that Brigadier Earle gave the order for an internal stability unit to open fire on striking policemen at the station on Friday. One striker, a police warrant officer, was killed. The demonstrators wanted Sidney Mufamadi, the Safety and Security Minister, to accept their petition personally. A three-man commission has been appointed by the provincial government to investigate the circumstances surrounding the death of the warrant officer.

Another company owned by Anglo American was also affected by a strike yesterday on the coast south of Durban. Hundreds of construction company workers downed tools at a chemical plant, sat on the road, blocking the entrance to the factory at Umbogintwini. Police moved in and cleared the road, arresting 11 protesters.



Mandela: pinning hopes on an influx of money

Australian Liberals elect new leader

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA'S opposition Liberal Party elected a new leader yesterday, marking a sudden boost in its electoral fortunes and an end to months of internal crisis.

John Howard stood unopposed at a party meeting in Canberra after the resignation last week of Alexander Downer, who had held the post for eight months. Mr Howard's smooth elevation to the leadership coincided with publication of an opinion poll suggesting that the Liberal coalition would win a federal election held now.

The survey, commissioned by *The Sydney Morning Herald*, showed that support for the coalition has surged to 44 per cent. Labour has slipped to 40 per cent.

Mr Howard is comfortably ahead of Paul Keating as the public's preferred Prime Minister with 49 per cent of respondents favouring him and 43 per cent the Labour leader. The figures represent a dramatic turnaround in the Liberal Party's fortunes since a month ago, when the Government led the coalition by 45 per cent to 40 per cent.

At a news conference, Mr Howard made his position clear on the republican issue, insisting that the present constitution "worked very well" and adding: "It's given this country 100 years of economic stability, cohesion and tolerance."

Clearly conscious of a change in the national mood, however, he said: "Many people in the Australian community are beginning to question the relevance of sharing a head of state with another country..." He added that he would support the status quo in an immediate referendum, but could change his mind "in a few years time".



David Kang, top left, with his lawyer yesterday after his court appearance in Sydney. Above left, the Prince of Wales is shouldered aside as a security officer dives towards the lone attacker and, right, the gunman is escorted from the Australia Day ceremony by Special Branch officers

Lax security encouraged man to fire at Prince

BY ROGER MAYNARD

POOR security encouraged a student to fire twice at the Prince of Wales with a starting pistol during last year's Australia Day ceremony in Sydney, it emerged yesterday.

The gunman was so amazed that nobody checked him for a weapon as he entered the open-air auditorium at Sydney's Darling Harbour that he decided to leap on to the stage brandishing the firearm in a protest against the detention of Cambodian boat people.

The police presence was so poor that there was not even an officer between him and the platform. The lapse was disclosed during a videotaped confession by David Kang, 24, who pleaded not guilty to causing an affray. During the interview, which

was shown in court, Mr Kang said that he had expected to be searched by the police so he disguised the starting pistol by wrapping it up like a Christmas present with pink paper.

"Initially I thought I would just stand up and pull it [the trigger] and then run away and the police would grab me," he said. "But this evening the security was not there. I was surprised there was not a policeman in front of the stage and I thought 'My goodness! No police in my way - I'll just go towards the stage because nobody's there.'"

He added: "I heard the starter pistol go off twice... I remember sliding and then everybody just jumping on me."

Mr Kang admitted that he expected to be shot by a police sniper as he rushed towards the stage. He carried

letters explaining the purpose of the attack in case he died. They said that he was protesting about the plight of Cambodian boat people detained in Australia. He asked: "What did I have to do to get the Australian media to say what's going on down at Villawood Detention Centre is an atrocity, is unjust. And they just don't care. Everybody just doesn't seem to care; and then I thought this was the only option."

The Sydney court was told that he had written about 500 letters to organisations and government bodies in an effort to draw attention to the boat people held in custody at the Villawood detention centre in Sydney. He even wrote to the Prince of Wales suggesting that he should visit the centre during his Australian tour, but he declined. "This letter was the like

the icing on the cake; it really grated me," he said. Mr Kang, the Australian-born son of Korean parents, stared impassively at a university booklet as videotape of the attack was also played to the packed courtroom. Ian Barker, his solicitor, suggested that the police had "thrown the book at him" because they were so embarrassed about the security lapse.

The court was also told that Mr Kang had been undergoing psychiatric treatment for severe depression and had suicidal tendencies. He was carrying magazine articles about two prominent suicide cases at the time of the attack.

The hearing was adjourned until today to allow the magistrate time to consider defence and prosecution submissions. If convicted, Mr Kang could be jailed for up to five years.

European Law Report

Net book agreement exempt from EC anti-competition decision

Publishers Association (supported by CIE, the Irish Book Publishers Association, and the Booksellers Association of Great Britain and Ireland, interveners) v Commission of the European Communities (supported by Pentos plc and Pentos Retailing Group Ltd, interveners)

Case C-360/92P
Before G. C. Rodríguez Iglesias, President, acting as President of the Chamber, and Judges J. C. Molino de Almeida and D. A. O. Edwards

Advocate General C. Lenz
(Opinion June 16, 1994)

Judgment January 17

Article 85(3) of the EEC Treaty, providing for exemption from article 85(1) (prohibition of anti-competitive agreements) in the case of agreements which provided certain benefits, was not subject to the condition that those benefits should occur only in the territory of the member state or states where the undertakings who were parties to the agreement were established.

The refusal of such an exemption in relation to the net book agreements was tainted by insufficient account having been taken of the single language area formed by the British and Irish book markets.

The Court of Justice of the European Communities (Fifth Chamber) held on an appeal by the Publishers Association and supporting interveners, from the Court of First Instance in Case T-66/89 (*The Times* November 7, 1992; [1992] ECR II-1995) which had dismissed the association's application for annulment of Commission Decision 89/44/EEC of December 12, 1988 (OJ 1989 L22 p12) in which the Commission of the European Communities had in article 1, found that agreements known as the net book agreements and ancillary rules constituted an infringement of article 85(1); in article 2, rejected an application for exemption under article 85(3), and, in articles 3 and 4, made consequential orders.

The Court of Justice set aside that part of the Court of First Instance's judgment upholding articles 2, 3 and 4 of the decision, and of its own motion annulled those parts of the decision.

The part of the judgment relating to article 1 was not contested in the appeal.

The net book agreements, concluded in 1957 under the aegis of the Publishers Association, which represented the majority of publishers in the United Kingdom, laid down standard conditions for the sale of books at fixed prices, under which, with certain exceptions, a book could not be sold at a discount or for less than the net published price.

The conditions applied to all sales to the public effected in the United Kingdom by a

wholesaler or retailer when the publisher publishing or distributing a book decided to market it at a net price.

In 1962 the Restrictive Practices Court, considering the validity of the agreements in the light of British legislation, held that the public would be deprived of benefits and advantages by their abolition and would not suffer appreciable harm by their maintenance, and that, accordingly, they were not contrary to the public interest: see *In re Net Book Agreement 1957* (1962) LR 3 RP 246. There were subsequent decisions of that court to the same effect.

Article 2 of the Commission decision was on the ground that the restrictions imposed by the net book agreements were not indispensable to the attainment of the stated objectives, namely, an increase in the number of stockholding booksellers, a fall in sales and smaller print runs, and hence a rise in book prices.

Article 85(3) provides: "The provisions of paragraph (1) may... be declared inapplicable in the case of..."

any agreement... between undertakings... which contributes to improving the production or distribution of goods or to promoting technical or economic progress, while allowing consumers a fair share of the resulting benefit, and which does not (a) impose on the undertakings concerned restrictions which are not indispensable to the attainment of these objectives...

In its judgment the European Court of Justice held:

"The central plea in law in support of the appeal was that the Court of First Instance had erred in law in upholding the Commission's view that the net book agreements were not indispensable to the attainment of the objectives pursued, without taking a position as to whether those objectives were actually attained."

The essence of that plea, together with two other pleas which challenged the reasoning in the judgment with regard to the distinction between the national and intra-Community effects of the agreements, was that the Court of First Instance had not taken into consideration the consequences of the existence of a single language area forming a single market for books in the United Kingdom and Ireland."

That omission was said to have prevented the court from carrying out a sufficiently detailed review of the Commission's assessment that the restrictions of competition resulting from the application of the agreements were not indispensable.

The Court of First Instance had held (at paragraph 83) that, given the particular ground for rejection of the application for exemption, evidence showing that the inherent benefits of the net book agreement system at the national level also existed in the intra-Community trade was irrelevant, so that it was not necessary to consider the benefits of the agreements on the national market in order to assess the legitimacy of the Commission's reasoning.

That reasoning ignored the need to determine the extent to which having regard to the single language area referred to, the objectives pursued by the agreements,

the restrictions of competition arising therefrom, and the relationship between the objectives and the restrictions were to be assessed in the same way or differently, depending on whether the assessment related to the national territory alone or to the Community market.

The court then held (paragraph 84): "The [Publishers Association] which is an association consisting of publishers established in the United Kingdom, is not entitled to rely on any negative effects which might be felt on the Irish market, even though that market belongs to the same language area."

Nothing in the wording or spirit of article 85(3) allowed that provision to be interpreted as meaning that the possibility for which it provided, of declaring paragraph (1) inapplicable in the case of certain agreements which contributed to improving the production or distribution of goods or to promoting technical or economic progress, was subject to the condition that those benefits should occur only on the territory of the member state or states in which the undertakings who were parties to the agreement were established and not in the territory of other member states.

Such an interpretation was incompatible with the fundamental objectives of the Community and with the very concepts of common market and single market.

In another part of its judgment the Court of First Instance did not properly deal with a contention by the Publishers Association relating to the findings of the Restrictive Practices Court in 1962 and to evidence produced by the association to show that the situation on the book market had not substantially changed since 1962.

On those reasons, the judgment under appeal was vitiated by a number of errors of law and would be set aside.

In accordance with article 54 of the Statute of the Court of Justice, the court would itself give final judgment on the matter, as the state of the proceedings so permitted.

Under article 190 of the EEC Treaty, Commission decisions had

to state the reasons on which they were based.

While the Commission was not required to discuss all the issues of fact and law raised by undertakings seeking an exemption, the statement of reasons in any adverse decision had to enable the Court to review its lawfulness and make clear to the member state and persons concerned the circumstances in which the Commission had applied the Treaty.

In its application for annulment the association made two submissions in relation to article 2 of the decision, aimed essentially to show that the decision failed to take proper account of the association's argument concerning the negative effects of the decision on intra-Community trade and in particular on the book market in Ireland.

The first was that the reasoning of the decision with respect to the indispensability of the restrictions on competition was based on evidence contradicted by the evidence produced in support of the application for exemption, including, as evidence of alleged benefits,

the decisions of the Restrictive Practices Court.

The association's argument that the findings of that court concerning the benefits of the net book agreements in the United Kingdom were also of relevance in assessing the consequences of those agreements in Ireland appeared to have some force, in view of the single language area.

In those circumstances the Commission should have considered the association's argument based on the decisions of the national court, but, while it referred to the existence of those decisions, it did not discuss their content, and in its summary of the association's argument it made no mention of the conclusions of the Restrictive Practices Court or the benefits of the net book agreements on the Irish book market.

The decision thus did not contain any explanation of why the conclusions of the Restrictive Practices Court and the documents produced by the association in support of its arguments were of no relevance.

It followed that, in view of the existence of a single language area formed by the British and Irish markets, the Commission did not give adequate reasons for its decision on that point.

The association's second submission related to the Commission's reliance on its decision considered in (Joint Cases 43 and 63/82) *VBVB v Commission of the European Communities* ([1984] ECR 19).

The system, designed by the Flemish and Dutch associations of publishers and booksellers at issue in that case differed from that set up by the net book agreements, and the Commission's reference to that case was manifestly inappropriate and so constituted a defect in the statement of reasons.

Article 2 of the decision, and the consequential orders by the Commission, would therefore be annulled on the ground of infringement of essential procedural requirements within the meaning of article 173 of the Treaty.

On those grounds, the Court of Justice:

1 Set aside the judgment of the Court of First Instance of July 9, 1992 in Case T-66/89.

2 Annulled articles 2, 3 and 4 of Commission Decision 89/44/EEC of December 12, 1988 relating to a proceeding under article 85 of the EC Treaty.

3 Ordered the Commission to bear its own costs and all the costs incurred by the appellants, both in the proceedings before the Court of First Instance and in the proceedings before the Court relating to the intervention by CIE and the Booksellers Association of Great Britain and Ireland.

4 Ordered Pentos plc and Pentos Retailing Group Ltd to bear their

economic unit within which the subsidiary had no real freedom to determine its course of action in the market because the parent company permanently supervised the making of decisions by, and the administration of, its subsidiary, and (ii) the agreements were solely intended to carry out an internal allocation of tasks as between the undertakings.

The Parker subsidiaries, as independent units from a legal point of view, enjoyed a certain autonomy and freedom of action with regard to the distribution of Parker products in their respective territories, and in (Case 30/87) *Boston v Pompes Funèbres des Régions Libérées* ([1988] ECR 2479, paragraph 20) the Court of Justice had held that legally independent companies within one and the same group constituted different undertakings within the meaning of article 85(1).

3 The economic independence of the subsidiaries was confirmed by the facts that they charged different prices, applied different terms of warranty, undertook different sales promotions, sold identical products in different forms, packaging and selections using different distribution methods, and followed different delivery criteria.

4 As to (ii) above, even within a group of companies in which the parent had extensive powers to issue instructions, an agreement which restricted competition was not authorised if it went beyond an internal allocation of tasks.

5 Even if central control by Parker was established, the control had the purpose and effect of conferring

subsidies and thereby ensuring the preservation of isolated national markets, and that infringed the fundamental principles of the common market so that in such circumstances article 85(1) must apply.

The court then held (paragraph 84): "The [Publishers Association] which is an association consisting of publishers established in the United Kingdom, is not entitled to rely on any negative effects which might be felt on the Irish market, even though that market belongs to the same language area."

Nothing in the wording or spirit of article 85(3) allowed that provision to be interpreted as meaning that the possibility for which it provided, of declaring paragraph (1) inapplicable in the case of certain agreements which contributed to improving the production or distribution of goods or to promoting technical or economic progress, was subject to the condition that those benefits should occur only on the territory of the member state or states in which the undertakings who were parties to the agreement were established and not in the territory of other member states.

Such an interpretation was incompatible with the fundamental objectives of the Community and with the very concepts of common market and single market.

In another part of its judgment the Court of First Instance did not properly deal with a contention by the Publishers Association relating to the findings of the Restrictive Practices Court in 1962 and to evidence produced by the association to show that the situation on the book market had not substantially changed since 1962.

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The A-Z of discount destinations: from adventures in Alaska to gorilla-spotting in Zaire. PLUS ...

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TODAY we present a further selection of holidays to exciting destinations all over the world which come with a special 20p bonus to readers of The Times. For the price of Britain's greatest newspaper, you may be entitled to a second holiday — a weekend break in Paris, Amsterdam, Seville, Barcelona, Vienna, Madrid or Istanbul.

You can book your 20p weekend if your holiday costs at least £750 per person (full brochure price). Or you can opt for a discount of 20p per cent off your main holiday's brochure price.

To take advantage of this promotion you must collect four of the 16 tokens which are appearing until next Monday, February 6. The details below give brochure codes and discounted prices in brackets. To obtain brochures, plus a special booklet giving full details of the promotion, ring the information hotline on 01369-707711.

AFRICA

Gorillas and Southern Explorer (ADS). Six-week safari through Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Gorillas, game parks, beaches and the varied culture of East Africa. £895-£945 (£716-£756), plus £165 for food.

Great Kalahari Trek (ADS). From Harare to the Victoria Falls, four-week safari through Zimbabwe, Namibia and Botswana. £595-£645 (£476-£516), plus £120/£130 for food.

Complete African Safari (ADS). Ten-week journey taking in Kenya, Uganda, Zaire, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Namibia and Botswana. Gorillas, game parks, Victoria Falls, Okavango Delta and the Namibian desert. £1,345-£1,395 (£1,076-£1,116), plus £250/£275 for food.

African Odyssey (RCL). From Nairobi to Mombasa, then by ship to Zanzibar, Madagascar, the island of Reunion, Durban, Mossel Bay and Cape Town. From £2,784 (£2,238).

Zimbabwe Explorer (CAR). For the active outdoor enthusiast and nature lover, a camping safari which takes in Hwange, Chizarira, Matusadona and three days canoeing down the Zambezi. From £1,580 (£1,264).

Wings Over The Delta (CAR). Eight-day wing-safari along the routes of the bounty hunters of old. Starts at Victoria Falls, ends at Maun in Botswana. From £2,795 (£2,236).

Namibia Explorer (CAR). Fourteen-day trip visiting the Fish River Canyon, the Sossivlei sand dunes and Etosha National Park. From £1,980 (£1,584).

Mauritius (CAR). Seven-night break at the Maritim Resort, including flights, transfers, accommodation, food, drinks, watersports, horse-riding and golf. From £1,425 (£1,140).

THE AMERICAS

California Adventure (TKA). Ten-day journey includes Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks. Activities include mountain-biking, kayaking, sailing in Lake Tahoe, white-water rafting and horse-riding. From £4,244 (£3,399). Other trips run by TKA cover Alaska, at £701 (£501); the eastern seaboard, at £587 (£319); the Canadian Rockies, at £622 (£497) and the "Wild West", including the Grand Canyon, at £554 (£443).

Cruise: New Orleans round-trip (DQS). Three nights: steam north on a paddle-ship along the Mississippi. From £245 (£276). There is also a four-night round-trip, from £435 (£348). Other cruises run by DQS visit cities such as Cincinnati, St Louis, Nashville, Chattanooga and Memphis. The cruise from St Louis to Chattanooga is aboard the paddle-ship, Mississippi Queen. It heads south to St Genevieve with its French colonial buildings and ends at Paducah, Florence and Decatur. From £695 (£550).

Pampas to Patagonia (CKL). Fourteen-day journey explores pampas, the island of Tierra del Fuego and Lago Argentino with spectacular glaciers and fjords. From £2,895 (£2,316). Other holidays run by CKL cover Inca cities (including Cuzco and the lost city of Machu Picchu in Peru), Central America, the Galapagos Islands, the Andes, the Atacama desert and

Safari sight the lion

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ASIA

Chile, the Mayas in the Yucatan peninsula and Cuba. There are seven-day breaks to cities including Mexico City at £845 (£676); Rio de Janeiro at £1,075 (£860); Buenos Aires at £1,295 (£1,036) and Santiago at £995 (£789).

Cruise: Tropical Adventures (SEC). Fifteen-day cruise of Panama and the lower Caribbean includes the Panama Canal, the San Blas Islands, Bonaire, Isla Las Aves off Venezuela, Trinidad, Grenada and the Grenadines and Dominica before ending in St Lucia. From £4,150 (£3,320).

ASIA

Splendours of the North (CKI). A 14-day introduction to India, visiting Delhi, Varanasi, the Taj Mahal, Agra, Jaipur and Udaipur. From £1,399 (£1,119). Other tours include Jungle Odyssey, in search of wildlife, and A Culinary Feast, exploring cuisine. Splendours of the South begins in Bombay and moves via Mysore to Madras. From £1,405 (£1,134).

East Meets West: Malabar Coast & Maldives (CKI). With lecturer Louise Nicholson. From £1,399 (£1,119).



Winter option: ski break

Pakistan: The North-west Frontier (CKI). A 16-day journey to the Mughal city of Lahore, the gateway to the Khyber Pass, Gilgit and the stunning Swat Valley. From £1,745 (£1,396). The Hidden Kingdom visits Bhutan, from £2,495 (£1,996). The Spirit of Tibet is a 15-day journey into the heart of the Himalayas, from £2,785 (£2,895) (£2,228-£2,316).

Botanical Tour of Bhutan (CKI). Fifteen days escorted by a qualified botanist. From £2,555 (£2,044).

Short Break: Hong Kong (CKS). Four nights or more, from £1,055 (£844).

Mongolian Classic Tour (STE). An 11-day tour offers walks or rides among pine and birch forests, mountain lakes and alpine scenery. From £2,470 (£1,970).

Treasures of Uzbekistan (STE). Nine days of sightseeing in the Silk Road cities of Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva. From £1,690 (£1,350).

Best of China, Japan and the Orient (RCL). These 17 and 18-day journeys take in Peking, Yantai, South Korea, Japan, Shanghai, Taipei and Hong Kong. From £2,434 (£1,947).

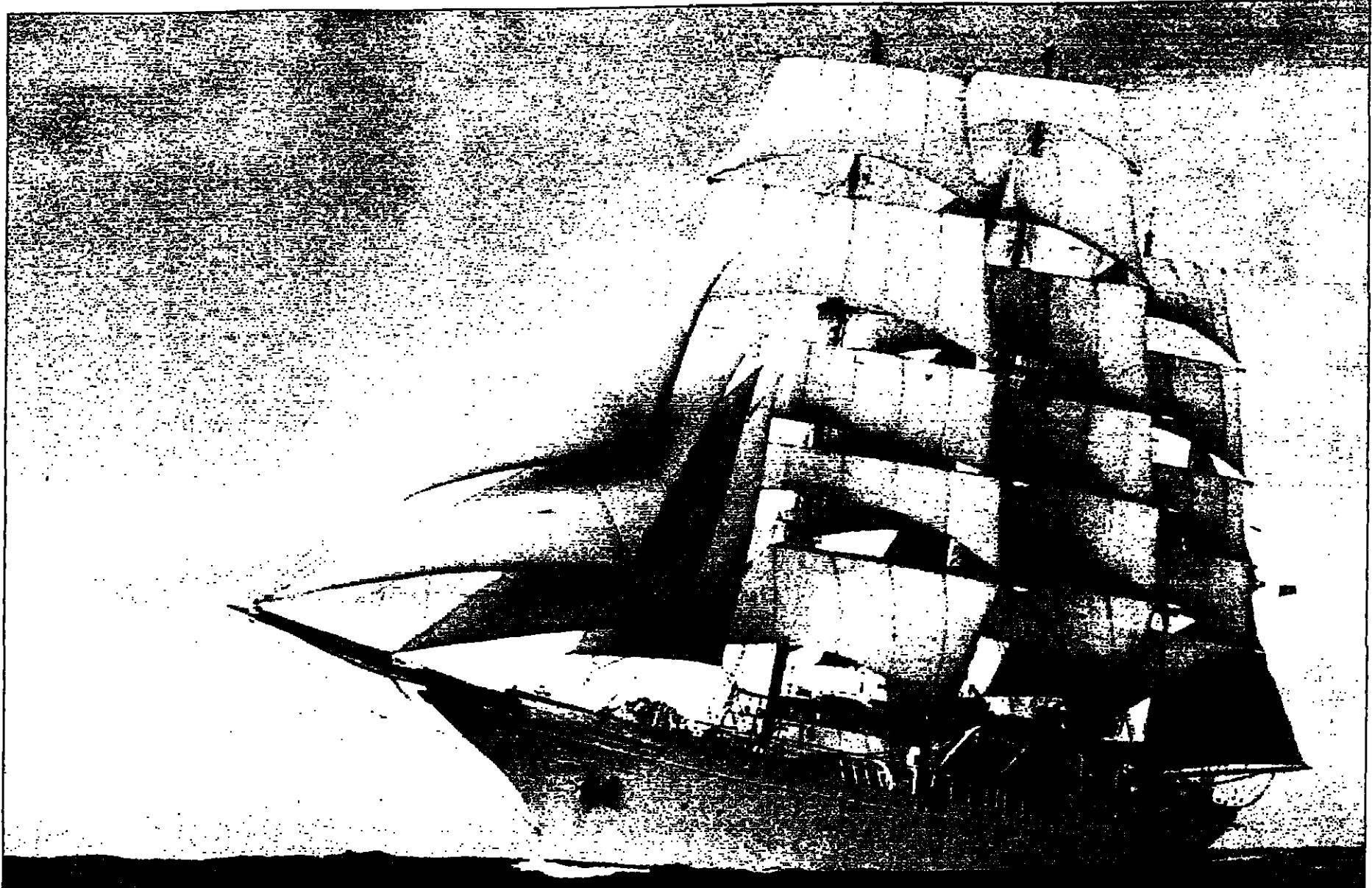
Cruise: Asian Capitals and Vietnam (ORL). Hong Kong, Bangkok, Singapore and Vietnam. From £2,250 (£1,620).

The Imperial China cruise begins with three nights in Peking and ends with three in Hong Kong.

AUSTRALASIA

Cruise: Splendours of New Zealand (ORL). A 12-day cruise/tour from the geothermal mud pools and spouting geysers of Rotorua to the towns of Napier, Dunedin and Christchurch and the glacier-carved fjords of Milford, Dusky and Doubtful Sounds. Includes a two-night stay in Auckland. £2,195 (£1,501).

Cruise: New Zealand and Australia. A 20-day tour that starts in Christchurch on New Zealand's South Island and calls at Picon, Napier, Tauranga, Auckland and the Bay of Islands before heading for Australia via the Coral Sea and Great Barrier Reef and ending with a three-night stay in Sydney. The 22-day Australia



Sailing by: a 13-day voyage on the Sea Cloud, from Kusadasi in Turkey to Piraeus, is offered by Special Expeditions, the American tall ships cruise firm, from £4,049

lia and the Java Sea cruise explores the islands of Indonesia, includes two days in Bali, the Great Barrier Reef and three nights in Sydney. From £2,795 (£2,012).

All New Zealand (APT). A comprehensive 18-day tour visiting glaciers, Mount Cook, Milford Sound, Christchurch and Wellington. Two nights in the Bay of Islands, with a cruise. £2,065 (£1,668).

Western Australia (APT). Last Frontier is a 22-day luxury coach tour from Perth to Darwin with many two-night stopovers and 47 meals included in the price. Highlights include Monkey Mia Dolphin Resort, the Ord River Scheme and Broome. £2,359 (£1,887).

Other APT tours include Highlights of Australia, starting at Sydney or Cairns and covering a vast area from the Great Barrier Reef to Ayers Rock, Kuranda, the Outer Barrier Reef and Melbourne in 15 days.

Centre Highlights (APT) is a five-day tour taking in Ayers

Rock, Uluru National Park, Watarrka National Park, Kings Canyon and Kings Creek cattle station. Nine meals are included in the price of £445 (£356).

perfumes and silks are on sale. The city also has excellent beaches, parks and gardens. Flights are included and you can stay two nights or more at a selection of top hotels. From £590 (£472).

From £1,495 (£1,196).

Short Break: Dubai (CKS)

The old town still retains the legendary mystique of Arabia with alleyways and ancient souks where spices, gold,

Europe and Greek Island

Sailing (TDE). This 35-day

coach-camping tour combines

the sights of Europe with

three days sailing in the

Aegean. From £849 (£679).

Eastern Europe, the Sahara

and Lapland are other coach

tour destinations.

Skiing: The High Five,

France (STD). A chance to

sample five resorts in one

week, with four days skiing

in the Three Valleys, plus one

day in La Plagne and one day

in Val d'Isère/Tignes. From

£395 (£316). Plus breaks for

skiers of all levels in Andorra,

Austria and Switzerland.

Short Break: Vienna (CKS).

Flights from London Gatwick

are included; two or more

nights in a selection of four-

or five-star deluxe hotels, from

£315 (£252). Other short

breaks to Nice, Cannes, Monte

Carlo, Barcelona, Prague,

Amsterdam and Bruges.

Cruise: The Mediterranean

(SEC). The Sea Cloud sails on

a 13-day voyage from the port

of Kusadasi in Turkey to

Piraeus in Greece. From

£5,060 (£4,048). Also a variety

of cruises across Europe,

from the Baltic to the Bospho-

rus (SEC, RCL, FOC, SHC).

From £1,745 (£1,396).

St Lucia: Wyndham Morgen

Bay (CBC). Two-week all-

inclusive beachside holiday,

April 18-July 31, from £1,728

(£1,382). Also, two weeks all-

inclusive at the Sandals res-

ort, from £2,343 (£1,874).

Antigua: Half Moon Bay

Club (CBC). Two weeks all-

inclusive, with golf and tennis

facilities, until July 4, from

£1,562 (£1,250). Also, two

weeks all-inclusive at San-

dals, from February until

December, from £2,414

(£1,931), or the same at the

informal Pineapple Beach

Club, between May 1 and

June 30, from £1,716 (£1,373).

Jamaica: Swept Away (CBC).

Two weeks all-inclusive at the

resort with the most compre-

hensive sports and fitness

complex on the island, May 1-

June 30, from £2,201 (£1,761).

Bermuda: Harmony Club

(CBC). Two weeks at the

island's only all-inclusive hotel

with a unique English

house party atmosphere,

from £1,973 (£1,578).

Barbados: Treasure Beach

(CBC). Two weeks room-only

at this all-suite property from

£1,284 (£1,027).

British Virgin Islands: Little

Dix Bay (CBC). Two weeks B

and B at a hotel with a

dedicated repeat clientele,

from £2,199 (£1,759).

and Sicily.

From £1,905 (£1,524). Also

available are grand tours of

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available are grand tours of

France, Switzerland, Italy

and Sicily.

Giles Coren meets a British designer whose ideas will revolutionise housekeeping

Inventor who cleaned up a small fortune

Even the taxi driver knew how it worked. As soon as I mentioned that I was visiting James Dyson, he was off. "That'll be the inventor of the Dual Cyclone," he told me. "The vacuum cleaner which doesn't need a bag, but filters the dirt by the centrifugal force of two cyclones. I've got one myself. And the Ballbarrow, too. It never gets stuck in mud, and it doesn't make lines on the lawn."

If this is the reaction of everyone who buys a Dyson product, I couldn't help thinking. It is no surprise that his inventions have achieved worldwide sales of more than £1 billion.

James Dyson is an inventor. Not a crazed boffin with a high forehead and electric-shock hair style, but a tall, well-kempt man who doesn't wave his arms around or shout, but speaks softly with a gentle, Heseltine roll on his 'r's. And at 47 he has some genuinely revolutionary inventions behind him. He also has a beautiful Georgian house in a village near Bath, and homes in Chelsea and the South of France — some of the fruits of his total control of a £300-million-a-year business.

Yet he does not have an engineering degree. He did not even study science at school, opting instead for classics and the Royal College of Art. "I soon realized that I wasn't after a life of painting," he says. "So I turned to furniture design. The work was all in wood, very nice, but not modern enough. So I moved over to interior design to work with plastic."

While still at the RCA he worked with the Conran Design Group on Terminal 1 at Heathrow, and designed the Forster Senz Trunk, a high-speed, air-lubricated, polyurethane hull for assault and landing craft, which won a Design Council Award.

"I realised I was veering towards product design, that I was interested in the technology as well as the look, and that they couldn't be separated. That is the way with the best designs. Brunel didn't try

to make bridges look good, they just did. The engineering showed through and gave things a fantastic glow that no flippant sensationalist like Philippe Starck could even dream of. The technology is all-important."

But how can someone trained as an artist make the leap to technological innovation? "Engineering is just a state of mind," he says. "You don't need a vast amount of knowledge. But I cling to the belief that anyone can become an expert in a specific area in about six months, whether it's hydrodynamics for boats, cyclonic systems for vacuum cleaners, or wheelchair propulsion. I steer clear of projects that involve too much maths and try to stick to empirical things, ideas that require an Edisonian approach."

This was the approach that brought us the now ubiquitous Ballbarrow. In 1974 Dyson set up a company to produce a dumper-truck-style plastic hull, suspended on a large football. It immediately took a half share of the market and won him another award.

It was while producing the Ballbarrow that the idea for the cyclonic vacuum cleaner was born. "We had to spray the burrow with an epoxy powder, and the powder which didn't stick had to be sucked away. We were using a vacuum with a cloth filter which would clog up once an hour and stop production."

"Looking around for something better, I discovered that the cyclone principle was being used in the car industry, but would cost £70,000 to buy. We built one ourselves, and it was amazing: it never clogged and production was uninterrupted."

"It occurred to me that the system could be used on domestic vacuum cleaners, which had not changed in 100 years. I went home, took the bag off my old machine and built a cyclone out of cardboard and Sellotape, which worked. I sold the Ballbarrow company and began to develop the Dual Cyclone (so called



James Dyson with his Dual Cyclone vacuum cleaner, which will double the size of his multi-million pound market

because an outer cyclone spinning at 200mph removes large debris and most of the dust, while an inner cyclone, rotating at 924mph, creates huge gravitational force and drives the finest dust — as small as the particles in cigarette smoke — out of the air."

Despite the success of his previous inventions, Dyson could find no one at home to

back his efforts with cash, a perennial problem for British inventors. Instead he sold licences to America and Japan (where the "G-Force" makes £90 million a year despite a cost of £1,200 per machine) to raise the £4.5 million he needed for his research.

"British industry's attitude to development and designers is blighted by short-termism," he claims. "You have to show a quick turn-around and immediate profit. Engineering is not about that — it's a long-term way of regenerating a company. If the City boys and the banks, the people Thatcher glorified, demand an instant return we just sell our products better, we don't improve them. Advertising is the Brit-

ish answer to everything. But that is the way to a fast buck, not real money."

"The best kind of business is one where you can sell a product at a high price with a large margin [the Dual Cyclone costs about £200 and make an enormous amount of money. For that you have to develop a product that works better and looks better than existing ones. That kind of investment is long-term, high-risk and not very British."

The original, upright, Dual Cyclone has been on sale for two years, generating £20 million a year. This week its cylindrical equivalent goes on sale. "The public divides into upright-pushers and cylinder-pullers — now the pullers have

a Cyclone too." James Dyson is convinced that the cylinder model will double sales, and since Europeans are all pathological cylinder draggers, the Continent is soon to be breached too.

One final question. The area where the dirt collects is transparent, all our detritus is paraded on the outside, turning the classic design inside out. Why do we need to see it? Is this some post-modernist nod to the architectural style pioneered by Richard Rogers at the Pompidou Centre, where the air-conditioning systems and escalators, the very guts, are made into a self-referential design feature?

"No," says Dyson. "It is so you can see when it's full."

Spare the rod, save the child

Parents who smack their children are failing, not helping them

WHEN Penelope Leach was interviewed after her last book, *Children First*, she was rebuked for promulgating a guilt-inducing counsel of perfection. Her reply, as coolly reasonable as ever she is, was that she had no interest whatsoever in fostering guilt, regarding it as an emotion with no useful purpose, and that even if her beliefs on child-rearing were not always easy to uphold, it didn't mean it was wrong to have the beliefs in the first place. After all, she said, you don't enter into marriage intending to be unfaithful.

This is exactly how I feel about hitting children. The aim must surely be not to, even if once or twice one falls by the wayside. Many of one's views on childcare, most of them probably, change radically after having a child oneself. Indeed, many of one's views on a good many things come up for review. But I feel the same way about the physical punishment of children as I did in my childless state. In

other words, it's about power, not justice. It certainly isn't about welfare, however much people insist that hitting a child is for its own good.

I am not easy with the idea that smacking a child should be made illegal, if only because I think we have to be wary about the state's making incursions into the privacy of the hearth. But we have ideas about what is and what is not appropriate behaviour in society, and we enshrine those ideas in law. If it's wrong to hit an adult who annoys us, why is it all right to administer the same punishment to a child? Surely children must, no less, have rights?

But it's about discipline you see. Children need discipline. I'd agree with this. Though surely hitting and discipline are two separate issues? And apart from anything else, it seems embarrassingly transparent that any parent who needs to resort regularly to physical punishment as a way of disciplining a

child has problems. The first problem, and the one that needs concern us here, is that hitting is obviously not working, or the need for it would have ceased.

LET us stay with the discipline issue. For there is one: the discipline of the parent. Let's be frank: most hitting is done out of anger, in hot blood, in frustration and in fury. The parent who hits a child is momentarily out of control — and, what's more, fears the child is in control. We can all lose our temper, surely that's understandable. But I'm troubled: because to understand is not necessarily to forgive, or if it is, maybe it shouldn't be.

The other day, sitting in a bus, I saw a young mother, laden with supermarket shopping and two children under five. The children were squealing and squabbling and generally adding to their mother's exhaustion and she lashed out at them. The little boy cried. The noise irritated her and she hit him again, warning him that next time "she'd give him something to really cry about".

I wanted to, but didn't say anything to her. I knew it would have made things worse. But I did feel that by silently witnessing it, I was somehow guilty of aiding and abetting. Her behaviour was not criminal in the strict application of the word, but there is surely a natural law that deems it to be. Maybe we should take our lead from that.

Shocked, virtually, into silence by that, I move on. Those of you who feel that hitting an 18-month-old baby is a reasonable act of a responsible person I cannot hope to appeal to. But I think that believing that it could be justifiable points up what is inherently wrong about the pro-hitters. Hitting, all of them are happy to admit, is about showing who's boss. In



NIGELLA LAWSON

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The great, unholy vicarage sale

Making vicars live in red-brick semis destroys the old-established fabric of village life, Peter Millar writes

Every village in Britain knows the syndrome summed up by the pikerwork signs along the main street: "The Old Sweet Shoppe", "The Old Bakery" and "The Old Blacksmith's".

My sprawling but still pretty north Oxfordshire village boasts all the above, plus an "old police house", as well as the old butcher's, bank, fishmonger's and draper's. The point is that the word "old" — however sweetly spelled — refers in each case not to the age of the premises but to the fact that it has lost its function: another casualty of the attrition of village life. Now a pressure group has sprung up to prevent the growth of another, already increasingly common instance, "the old rectory". Take the rectory out of the rectory, according to the newly-founded Save Our Parsonages Society (SOPS), and you take the soul out of the parish.

In the past decade, nearly 1,300 parsonages, most situated close to the local church and with long historical links to it, have been sold off. The incumbent vicars have, in most cases, been rehoused in newer buildings, from terrace houses to urban semis, that may more closely resemble the homes of their parishioners but no longer say: "The vicar lives here."

The result is that a growing number of Church of England parish priests find themselves in the unenviable situation dramatised in Joanna Trol-

lope's *The Rector's Wife*: envying the yuppie, luxuriating in the old parsonage next door.

The Rev John Hawthorne who, as vicar of Tetbury, Gloucestershire, counts the Prince of Wales among his parishioners, is one of the lucky ones. When he moved in to his rambling rectory — "the older part is medieval, the new bit was added on in 1771" — the diocesan clerk had plans to divide it up and sell part off. "We said: 'We want it all, please'." — not an unreasonable request from a man with seven children. "The clerk said something would have to be done eventually, but the archdeacon, Eric Evans, said: 'eventually, my boy, can be a very long time.'"

The system does not always work so well, however. Administering church property in a diocese mainly falls to the lot of the archdeacon, but each diocese also has its "houses committee". SOPS accuses the



Channel 4's *The Rector's Wife* mirroring reality

church authorities of "asset-stripping". Old vicarages routinely fetch well in excess of £150,000 on the open market and exceptional specimens have netted £500,000.

But confusion can be the result, not to mention dissatisfaction among the clergy for whom the right to live in an atmospheric, spacious and characterful home can be a

major element of what professional asset-strippers would term "an otherwise unattractive remuneration package". According to Mr Hawthorne, a former incumbent in nearby Cirencester agreed to sell off the old property and move into a modern house. His successor, however, was unhappy with the property but found that the vicarage was now out of the parish's price range.

Every change, however, incurs costs. The fact is that newly appointed priests feel less obliged to remain in a modern house than in an old vicarage which has been in the parish for generations. If the wife dislikes it, they opt to move and the old idea of there being "a parsonage" evaporates in the mind of the community. In our village, the Old Rectory (somehow the capitals seem to come with the loss of status) is a fine neo-classical, late Georgian building a stone's throw from

the 15th-century church. Today, it is known primarily for late-night parties and the two BMWs parked outside. The vicar, meanwhile, lives in a nondescript, redbrick house on an unlovely modern estate on the edge of the village.

Left-wing elements in the church feel that the old-style vicarage was a social barrier, and having the priest live in the midst of his flock keeps him better in touch. Mr Hawthorne, for one, would disagree: "I think it is in fact more classless in a funny way than if we lived in some four-bedroom executive home." That is certainly a sentiment shared by many country church-goers who expect the vicar to live in a property that is, to use estate agent jargon, "representational", and also large enough to hold coffee mornings and parish meetings.

But then there are also the sort of old-fashioned parishioners who do not appreciate the Sunday morning sermon from the pulpit turning into a Labour Party lecture. The Church of England is used to being caricatured as a genteel but slightly down-at-heel social institution more renowned for its tea parties than its crusading evangelism. The selling-off of its heritage, however, threatens to turn it into a well-off minority sect with socialist leanings. No doubt the cucumber sandwiches will go next.

The elderly can and do die of hypothermia in cold but comfortable houses as well as in the cities of cardboard, writes **Dr Thomas Stuttford**

Hypothermia is no respecter of class

PREWAR boarding schools with their dormitory windows opened a mandatory eight inches — wide enough to admit driven snow as well as freezing winds — helped to fashion the attitude of generations of empire-builders to the cold. These Twenties or Thirties children, whose time at home was in all probability not much drier or warmer than when they were at school, are now pensioners who 60 or 70 years on have retained their contempt for closed bedroom windows, 24-hour central heating or even wrapping up warmly against the cold.

This disdain for comfort of many old people leaves them vulnerable to hypothermia, which can develop insidiously. Hypothermia is diagnosed when the body temperature falls below 35°C: it

results in poor physical co-ordination, a stumbling gait, mental confusion and eventually loss of consciousness and fatal cardiac arrhythmias.

Dr Kenneth Collins, a senior clinical lecturer at the Middlesex Hospital, London, who is an expert on hypothermia, has recently reviewed his speciality in *The Practitioner* magazine. Dr Collins stresses that older people have a diminished ability to shiver, a lower metabolic rate, and that the superficial blood vessels fall to constrict. They also suffer, he says, from "a blunted temperature

perception, and a generally unresponsive attitude to the threat of cold". Elderly people, however active, can also become confused when exposed to the cold, particularly if they are suffering or recovering from an infection. They can then fail to take commonsense precautions against the weather or if indoors refuse to admit that their surroundings are too chilly.

In general, outdoor clothes should be worn with great coats coming well below

the knee and, however unfashionable, hats and scarves should be worn. Indoors, bedroom windows should be kept closed, heating on at night and draughts excluded.

Recent changes in legislation have removed the fear of a spouse being left near destitute because of inheritance tax, but just when the tax collector has shown some humanity, the social services' policy of charging the physically enfeebled hotel rates for residential care

threatens to strip their savings bare. As a result, the dread of poverty has been intensified and some struggle on at home, alone, when they would be safer in residential accommodation.

Hypothermia is no respecter of background. People can and do die of hypothermia in cold but well appointed houses as well as in cardboard city. But not withstanding this, the most vulnerable are the over-75s who are on supplementary benefits and who are living alone. The risk is further increased if they are suffering from any chronic

illness, infection or affected by malnutrition, drug dependency or excessive alcohol intake.

Accidental hypothermia regularly takes its toll. These victims may be at the peak of their physical fitness, and the causes of their plight are a separate problem; but whatever the cause, any patient who has a rectal temperature below 34°C should always be referred to hospital.

The recent blizzards in Scotland and the North should not encourage the idea that it only affects the stranded traveller or the mountaineer. For as Dr Collins writes: "There are many cases of elderly people being found with hypothermia in no more a hostile environment than in their own beds or in their own homes."

SCIENCE PHOTO LIBRARY

Will a pill a day keep clots at bay?

Does aspirin's anti-platelet properties mean we should all be taking it?

Dr Trisha Greenhalgh reports

Take two aspirin and call me in the morning" has been the catch phrase of the busy general practitioner for almost a century. Traditionally used to calm a fever, aspirin now has far wider benefits, and thousands owe their lives to its blood-thinning properties. Enthusiastic media coverage of recent research trials has given some people the impression that an aspirin a day will bring rest and longevity to any who take it. The story is not quite so simple.

The abilities of certain plant products to bring down a temperature (antipyretic action) and relieve pain (analgesic action) were first associated with cinchona bark (which contains quinine) in the Middle Ages, and later with willow bark. Salicylate, the active ingredient of willow bark, was isolated in 1829 and first given medicinally (as the precursor of aspirin) in 1899, when a third — anti-inflammatory or anti-rheumatic — action quickly became apparent.

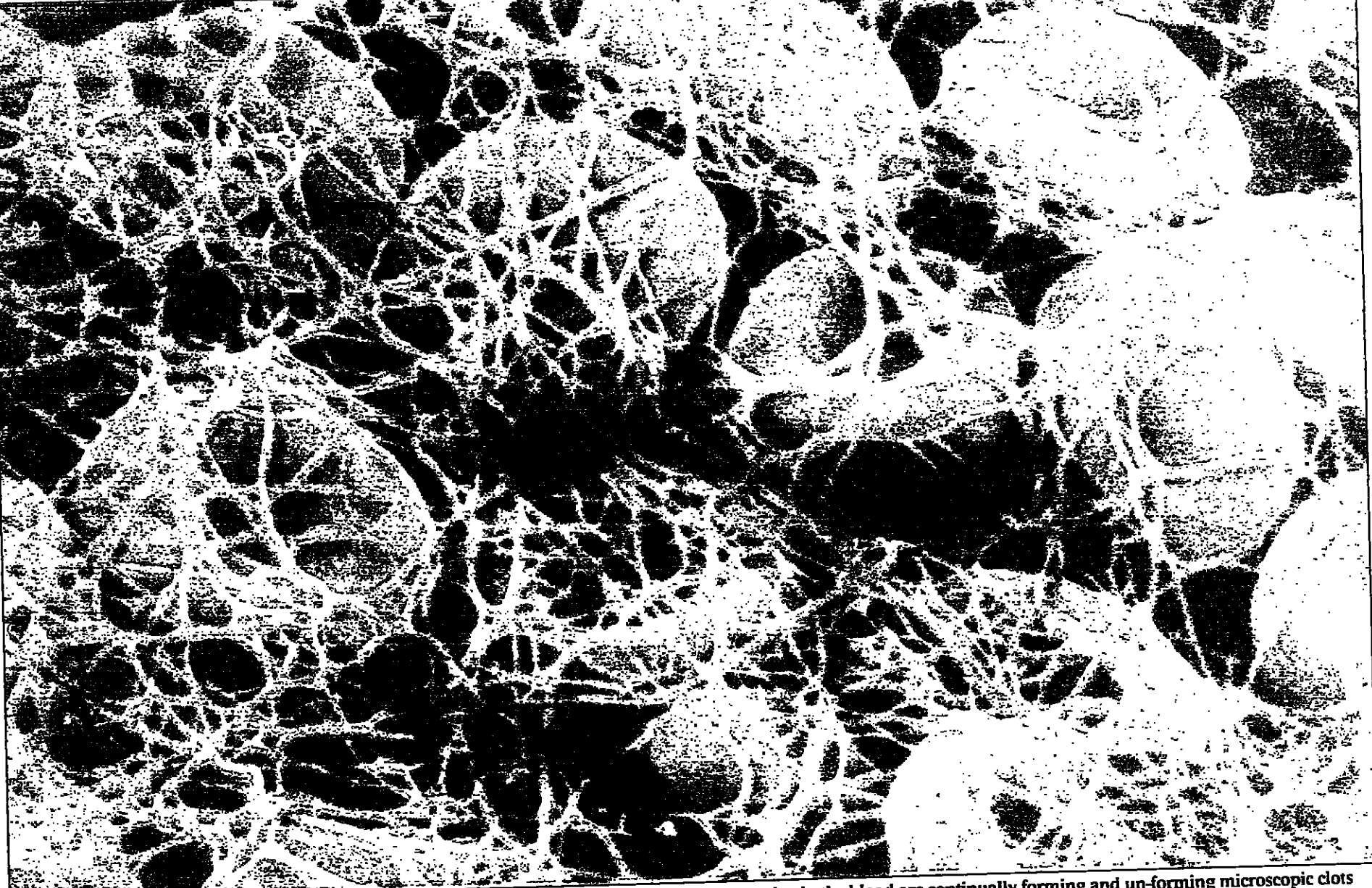
It is now known that, in addition to these three actions, aspirin blocks a very specific biochemical reaction inside the blood platelets (tiny fragments of red blood cells essential for the formation of clots), making them less sticky and less likely to cludge up in small or damaged blood vessels.

This fourth property of aspirin — its anti-platelet action — is almost unique, making it one of the most irreplaceable drugs of all time.

We tend to think of a blood clot as solid and static, but in reality the platelets and clotting proteins in the blood are continually forming and un-forming microscopic clots. Like most biological processes, this dynamic equilibrium can be shifted in either direction by adding or subtracting clotting proteins or by making platelets more or less sticky.

The central defect in most heart attacks is a clot (thrombus) in one of the coronary arteries — hence "coronary thrombosis", the medical term for a heart attack. Clotting drugs such as streptokinase, given in the emergency treatment of heart attacks, work by unravelling the matrix of a clot into the soluble protein fibrin, thus — if the treatment is given early enough — unblocking a vital coronary artery. Aspirin, when given during a heart attack, prevents the clot from spreading and reduces the risk of death, which is why aspirin should now be carried in every doctor's emergency bag.

It would, of course, be better to prevent thrombus forming in the coronary arteries in the first place. If you are at high risk of a coronary thrombosis — for example, if you suffer



A blood clot showing strands of fibrin around red blood cells — the platelets and clotting proteins in the blood are continually forming and un-forming microscopic clots

from angina, have had a heart attack, or have been shown to have narrowed coronary arteries in a special X-ray called a coronary angiogram — there is no doubt that taking aspirin regularly will reduce your risk of both fatal and non-fatal heart attack. Aspirin's anti-platelet action is achieved at a lower dose than its other actions, which is why "baby aspirin" is said to help heart-disease sufferers to live longer.

Since most heart attacks occur in people who are not aware of being at high risk of thrombosis, perhaps we should all be taking baby aspirin just in case? The

answer would appear to be no. The downside of a reduced tendency to clot is an increased tendency to bleed. Many people cannot take aspirin at all because of tiny bleeds on the surface of the stomach. In those with a pre-existing ulcer, aspirin can cause a major gastro-intestinal haemorrhage. Bleeding into other internal organs is also a risk, and many asthma sufferers are allergic to aspirin.

The influence of low-dose aspirin on the risk of stroke is complex. About two-thirds of strokes are caused by a similar mechanism to coronary thrombosis — a clot in an

essential, and often narrowed, blood vessel. But the other third are caused by bleeding from a weak or abnormal vessel.

As you might expect, aspirin decreases the risk of the first type (thrombotic stroke) but increases the risk of the second (haemorrhagic stroke). Since haemorrhagic strokes are more likely to be fatal, aspirin, on average, causes more stroke deaths than it prevents.

The widely quoted US Doctors' Aspirin Trial, in which 22,000 healthy doctors took

either an aspirin or a placebo tablet a day, showed a 44 per cent reduction in the risk of heart attack in aspirin takers over the next five years. However, it was estimated that one haemorrhagic stroke was created for every seven non-fatal heart attacks prevented. Although the American study suggested a small overall benefit from aspirin, a similar study in British doctors showed no difference in mortality between aspirin and placebo groups. The American trial continues, and three-quarters of the participants allocated to placebo have requested that their calendar

packs be changed to aspirin — suggesting that the average doctor, rightly or wrongly, anticipates significant long-term benefit from the drug.

Recent research has shown that most women who develop high blood pressure in pregnancy (pre-eclampsia) do so in response to a microscopic clotting process occurring in the blood vessels of the placenta. Women at high risk of pre-eclampsia can halve their risk of this complication by taking low-dose aspirin from the start of their pregnancy. Giving aspirin to every pregnant woman, however, would expose large numbers of foetuses

to an unnecessary drug and their mothers to a small but definite risk of internal bleeding.

Patients' familiarity with aspirin has traditionally bred contempt, but the dramatic benefits of anti-platelet therapy in patients at increased risk of heart attack and pre-eclampsia have unexpectedly propelled this drug into the pharmacological superleague. But no drug is a panacea, and the growing fashion for perfectly healthy people to join the one-aspirin-a-day habit is unjustified and probably unwise.

● The author is a GP in north London.

When suspicion turns true love sour

Love and sex have been extensively studied by scientists but jealousy has remained strangely neglected. It inspires widely differing responses, ranging from those who regard it as a sign of commitment to those who see it only as destructive. Negative emotions are harder to examine because people are less honest about them.

Jealous? Then you're emotionally insecure, a new survey suggests

However, researchers have begun to lift the lid on an emotion that has wracked lovers throughout history. Jealousy is the enemy, not the friend, of romance. The emotion Freud described as

the "narcissistic wound" is more often a mark of fear than of ardour and those in its grip tend to be insecure, lacking friends and with a low opinion of themselves.

Findings from the first study of sexual jealousy in the community dispel the myth that a jealous nature goes hand in hand with a romantic one. They suggest that people prone to jealousy may have more difficulty establishing and maintaining relationships than those with a more relaxed attitude to flirtation.

In extreme cases jealousy becomes obsessive. Seven per cent of women but only one per cent of men admitted searching pockets and bags for incriminating evidence. Some opened mail or secretly followed their partners when they went out. One man and six women admitted examining their partners' clothes for signs of "illicit sexual contact". Dr Smith admitted resorting to violence. Barely a dozen said they had threatened or struck their partner and half as many reported threatening their rival.



Klimt's *The Virgins*: young love is no proof against obsessional jealousy

Men and women are equally prone to jealousy but experience it differently. Women with high self-esteem almost never feel jealous, especially if they have a strong network of friends and do not invest all their emotional needs in their main relationship. Men appear less jealous only because they are better at hiding it.

Although both sexes fear being deserted, the fear is more marked among men. They tend to respond, perversely, by ignoring the problem, staying late in the pub and behaving in ways that seem designed to encourage their partners to leave.

Women faced with their partner's infidelity, or the prospect of it, are less likely to worry about being deserted

and more likely to worry about losing closeness, intimacy and trust within the relationship. They respond, according to the researchers, with the politically incorrect device of "trying to make themselves more attractive and interesting to their erring partner".

The study, conducted in New Zealand, is based on responses to a 12-page questionnaire sent to 600 randomly selected people, of whom 350 returned them.

The researchers admit that using a questionnaire "does not guarantee frankness" about an emotion which is "private and isolating and may be hidden out of shame and embarrassment". Nevertheless, the results, published in the *British Journal of Psychiatry*, show that almost half believe jealousy is "in-

evitable if you truly love someone". Nearly two thirds said they felt jealous when their partner showed interest in someone else but fewer than one in ten admitted to their own jealousy causing problems in the relationship. Both men and women were more likely to blame their partner's jealousy for creating problems, even when they rated themselves as more jealous.

Surprisingly, few said that the experience made them more aware of their partners' sexual attractiveness.

Jealousy in men is said to derive from a biological imperative to ensure paternity by maintaining sexual exclusivity. In women it is said to reflect the need for a stable environment for child-rearing. However, the study found no evidence to support either thesis. Biological imperatives appear to have outlived their usefulness.

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Securing the nation state

Malcolm Rifkind urges the European Union to start looking outwards

A decade ago, European security issues were relatively straightforward. Now they are much more complex, and international relations are perhaps more like those of the 19th century than of the exceptional period of the Cold War. But the collapse of communism amounts to one of the defining moments of history, akin to the French Revolution, the Russian Revolution of 1917, and the defeat of Hitler.

In the past, the ending of great wars brought either a reckoning or an opportunity. We have to reject the attitude that gave us the Treaty of Versailles, which lasted less than 20 years. The opportunity we should seize is exemplified by the Congress of Vienna, 180 years ago, which ushered in a century of relative stability in Europe. Of course, we do not have the luxury of agreeing a settlement of Europe, as Castlereagh, Metternich and others did. But we may, if we are imaginative and bold, be able to lay the foundations for the future security of Europe.

There is certainly pressure towards integration in Europe, to reap maximum benefit from international co-operation and the removal of barriers. There is no shortage of problems that cross national boundaries: drugs, organised crime, terrorism and pollution.

At the same time, we face pressure in the opposite direction. I am referring to the growth of regionalism. Neither Belgium nor Britain is a stranger to this. The pressures we in Britain see today from Scottish and Welsh nationalism is matched elsewhere in Western Europe: by the Catalans and Basques in Spain, and the Northern League in Italy. One of the great challenges of the remainder of this century and of the next will be to respond to the wish to preserve cultural and national identities without fragmentation and instability.

It may be tempting to view this resurgence of regional, national and ethnic tensions since the end of the Cold War as a challenge without precedent in history; but the reality is different: it was the Cold War that was the aberration. The division of Europe into two ideological camps with an Iron Curtain down the middle and with massive military might on both sides has been the exception, not the rule, in European history. The nearest historical precedent was the splitting of Europe between Catholic and Protestant states after the Reformation. But even this was patchy, informal and open to comparison. Europe has reverted to its more normal historical state, as a family of nations, but one which emphasises the cultural, linguistic and political diversity which is the norm.

But what should be the contribution of the European Union to the security of the new Europe? Nato has protected Western Europe from the threat of war on the one hand, while it has been the fundamental achievement of the

European Union that it has made war between them inconceivable on the other. Our common experience of European conflict twice this century is a reminder that we cannot return to the kind of politics we saw in Europe before 1939.

The EU is entering a new and crucial stage of its development, and one with which the peoples of Europe must be able to feel comfortable. The new phase must combine expansion with adaptation; it must also mark a decisive shift in the orientation of the Union towards a more outward-looking stance in the world.

Expansion will be welcome as a step to making the Union more truly European. We look forward to eastward enlargement, but we must recognise that there is a need for substantial internal change to accompany this. It is hard to see, for example, how the common agricultural policy can survive in its present form and remain affordable to all.

Europe has reverted to its usual state: a family of nations

Nor is the new Europe going to be built on the federalist ambitions of the 1950s and 1960s. The time for that kind of ideological debate has passed. So I welcome the remarks by the French Prime Minister, Edouard Balladur, when he reminded us of the sheer diversity of the European family, questioning whether Europe must evolve towards a federal system and asked us to leave "ancient quarrels" to one side. We now need to build effective mechanisms for co-operation between states.

Some may speculate that the nation-state is being left behind, but I am convinced that this is not the case. There are certainly pressures towards transnational action and towards regionalism, but the modern liberal state remains the fundamental basis for establishing and maintaining democracy and the rule of law in a way that is meaningful to individuals and consistent with their sense of identity. I do not see how we can construct the international order we want on any other basis.

The nation-state remains the fundamental entity for co-operation in the field of defence. Defence co-operation has, of course, been a notable feature of post-war Europe. Through Nato and the new multinational force structures, Britain intends to deepen co-operation in the defence field. But the defence of its citizens is the most fundamental responsibility of a national government. We may choose to exercise our responsibilities in coalition with partners, but it is a national government's duty to answer to national parliaments if troops' lives may be at risk.

Defence and security should be based on co-operation between nation-states, not dictated by supranational bodies. This will be an unshakeable conviction, on which future British policy will be based.

This is an extract from a speech given yesterday at Chatham House by the Secretary of State for Defence.

Woodrow Wyatt says that as Tony Blair leaves calm waters, steering will become treacherous

Tony Blair's instincts are right. To have a real chance of victory, he must suppress, remove or hide Labour's cloven foot. Cloven-footed goats were considered unclean by Rabbinical writers, hence their choice of symbol for the Prince of unclean spirits, the Devil. Labour's lurking devil, frightening many, is 19th-century Marxist socialism. Belief in nationalisation remains strong. So does love of state regulation and envy of the successful rich: they are to be brought into egalitarian line by higher taxation and curbing of their ability to get quicker hospital attention and access to better education than the State provides.

The intention of Clause Four is cloven-footed. Mr Blair could have left it dormant and forgotten. Instead he has taken the brave risk of highlighting it at Labour's special April conference. If he succeeds in watering it down to innocuous waffle about social justice, opinions of his leadership qualities will rise. If he fails, he will get marks for trying, giving the impression that as PM he would not be influenced by the old shibboleths. Even now he is not committed to renationalising British Rail, but to soothe his followers he displays ambiguity. In the Commons he concentrates on the popular

dislike of rail privatisation and the horrors of being unable to buy one ticket to travel to all destinations. Yet he must know that private operators, to maximise sales, will offer the same or better ticket-buying facilities.

Blair has four main advantages: dislike of sleaze; the illusion of a new Labour Party as capitalist as the Tories; discontent among erstwhile Tory voters bolstering the cry of time for a change; and his projection of himself as the idealistic, smiling young curate with indisputable charm for lady voters.

John Major's appointment of Lord Nolan's Committee will fairly soon neutralise the sleaze issue. However, foolish a few greedy Tory MPs are, it is improbable they will be embroiled in unsavoury financial connections for a long while. Anyway, the newly cynical public thinks all parties equally venal.

A perception of Labour as lookalike

Underneath it's still the old Labour Party

Tories has disadvantages as well as advantages. If it were true, why not have the genuine article? Mr Blair fuels suspicion of the concept in various ways. For instance, his recent speech at a dinner in honour of Stanley Matthews dwelt on inquiry of pay and transfer fees in the millions for talented footballers. This signalled an intent to limit the amounts British clubs can pay for home or foreign players, contrary to free enterprise. Similarly, his proposed laws against apparently excessive payments to executives would inevitably lead to a statutory incomes policy starting at the top and working down, with the State trying to fix appropriate salaries, in the place of shareholders and directors. We see numerous glimpses of the cloven feet. Mr Major criticises manifestly over-the-top salaries, but wisely does not want the State involved with them unless the enterprises are state-owned.

The so-called "feel-good" factor missed by once staunch Tories is largely due to the changed status of home ownership. Repossessions and negative equity remain common. Cuts in mortgage interest relief and higher interest rates seem treacherous own-goals to those encouraged by the Tories to be home-owners. Blair could score heavily if he were to pledge an extension of mortgage interest relief, and if he wins, the general expectation of the customary Labour-driven inflation would cheer house-owners no end, bursting with prospects of higher house prices.

Only aficionados of politics study the relative merits of Cabinet and Shadow Cabinet ministers. The rest assume all to be much of a muchness. John Major is making substantial headway in the Commons and elsewhere, demonstrating a calibre superior to Blair's. He gains from a reaction against the depiction in

much of the media of him as a weakling. Voters plumped for or against Mrs Thatcher and the then current Labour leaders, and they will choose between Major and Blair next time. The public increasingly equates a PM with an American president.

The new-broom image will be hard to sustain when Blair is forced more to furnish his policies with details, or fails to do so. He is also now leaving the calm waters of party unity, with oars starting to clash as choppy waters in front of the winning post begin to be discerned. Mr Major's crew is more or less in union in its distaste for Brussels' encroachments, and is determined to reverse them, although a few out-of-touch Tories like Geoffrey Howe dissent. Blair's crew is powered by the official policy of the majority to bow to Brussels, its single currency, its social chapter, its federal ambitions and the not-so-gradual extinction of our parliamentary sovereignty. As Mr Major has the dominant mood of the country precisely right, this issue will sink Mr Blair. Last-minute attempts to steer in a different direction will not inspire confidence with the public.

Mr Blair's creation of a new Labour Party is far from complete. If he survives, he could be better placed at the next but one election.

Time to cashier the banks?

Are you assured that you won't be charged for your current account?

Don't be too certain

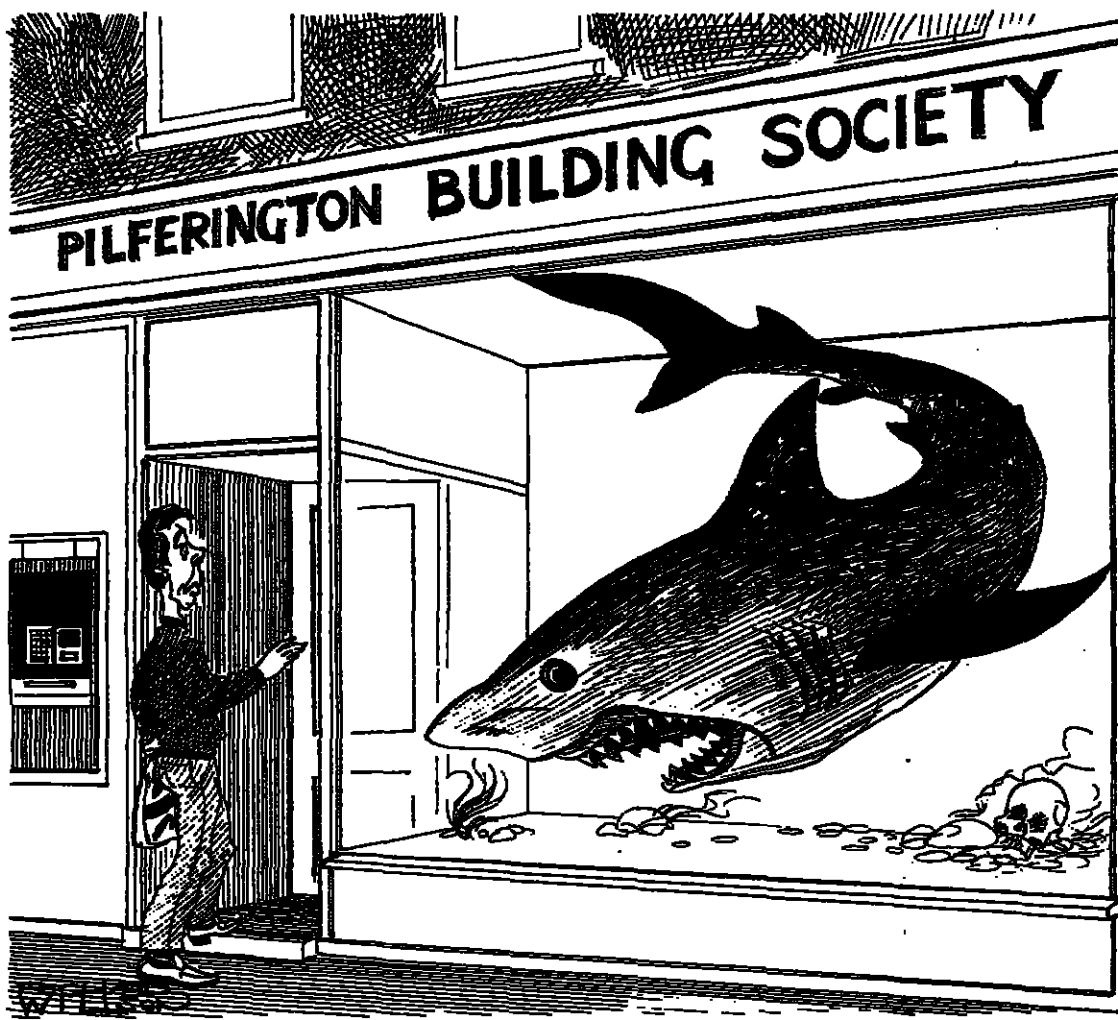
Once again, I turn in wonder, hilarity, sorrow and amazement to my hero, Tony Hetherington. Tony is a financial wizard, and when it comes to money it is clear that he knows absolutely everything about it. For many years, he regularly wrote in *The Sunday Times* (he eloped to the *Mail on Sunday* last year) and among his vast variety of financial wizardries was and is the exposing of financial crooks and swindlers.

Now I could never, and can never, fathom the people who, without any kind of financial knowledge, and knowing that they had no financial knowledge, would throw money to the sharks and stand bewildered when the shark's teeth closed upon them. I only have to say the word "timeshare" for instance, and there will come running a huge crowd of disappointed and swindled innocents who couldn't see the difference between a shark and a goldfish.

Here is one of Tony's ripest clients: Could you spare a little time to look into my problem? In 1987 I invested £1,000 in GSS Venture Capital, a Florida company which was developing a patch to stick on food in supermarkets. The patch would change colour depending on the state of the food and would replace the sell-by date. The shares were marketed by a Madrid broking firm called Dateline. I have had no dividends and have written unsuccessfully several times to find out if my shares are worth anything.

No, friend, your shares are not worth anything. But then, they weren't worth anything in the first place. Coloured patches in supermarkets in Florida... marketing firms in Madrid... Dateline... Surely Tony shook his head sorrowfully, as well as in amazement, when he told the seeker for enlightenment that:

If you do not want to be depressed, do not read the next few paragraphs, which reveal that you are a victim of one of the biggest share frauds of modern times... The broking firm you dealt with was actually called Timezone. Dateline was the name of its newsletter. Timezone was indeed based in Madrid, but it was part of a crooked network of brokers which included FMS Financial Management Services in London, Prudentium in Lugano, Kestler Investments in Geneva, First Gibraltar Financial in Marbella, and other firms as far away as Dubai, Hong Kong and the Pacific. And nobody smelt a rat, if I were a harsher man I would say not only



Bernard Levin

use made by a junior figure with no authorisation: it was the bosses, and the bosses alone, who made the promise. Indeed, I know the names of all the four and what they said.

Mr Andrew Buxton, chairman of Barclays Bank, said publicly that his bank will not be the first to take the current account plunge... Mr Christopher Wadman, who was managing director of branch banking at Midland, said plainly that Midland will not move first on the charges. Mr Derek Wanstall, the chief executive of NatWest, insists that his bank has no current plan to be first. Mr Brian Pimman, Lloyds chief executive, says Lloyds will not be the first or even second.

Yet you and I know perfectly well that all four of those promises are going to be broken, the only question among them being "whose turn is it?" for I presume that someone must have kept the minutes of the previous carve-up. (Could we, just this time, spare the funny bit where they say

that they are never in cahoots?) And it wouldn't be so bad if they were efficient, truthful, quick, helpful, accommodating, or even one of those qualities. And if they say oh, this is only Levin again, and we know that we have to go through the Levin ritual, then they are in for something of a shock. Because it is not only Levin this time, as that indispensable document *Which?* reveals.

The banks and the building societies — both are in it up to their necks — have invented a most ingenious scam. It is not, of course, against the law — nothing I say in this diatribe even suggests criminal action, and indeed I am discussing the high street banks and leading building societies, which would in itself put paid to any suspicion of illegality.

Ah — but there is plenty of room to accommodate a pack of slippery bastards, even if they are well on the right side of the law. Their latest scam is the two-track account: this is how it works. (See *Which?*)

An absolute account is one that is closed to new customers but still open to existing account-holders... The difference... can be significant... Savers in Woolwich's obsolete Share Account... could be over five times better off by switching to its Prime Gold Account... The Leeds Building Society, which has scrapped its ob-

solete accounts and transferred customers to live accounts, says that 20 million savers (elsewhere) are losing a total of about £800 million interest each year... existing customers may be unaware of new accounts and that they would earn more interest by switching to them... Following angry protests from savers at an annual general meeting, Nationwide agreed (about time too — B.L.) to publish interest rates on obsolete accounts along with those for live accounts...

No wonder the banking ombudsman last year had to deal directly with nearly 9,000 complaints, and with many more over the telephone. And no wonder that *Which?* has dolefully to record that there has been no significant improvement in the quality of banking since their previous examination. For instance "nearly one in five were dissatisfied with the way mistakes on their account were handled, one in six had problems with a direct debit or standing order, one in eight people were charged incorrectly by their bank or building society". A thought: is there ever, has there ever been, is there any chance that there ever might be in the future a mistake in the banking and building society system on the side of the customer? Oh, well; it was only a thought.

But I mustn't be flippant, if only because... Mr Martin Taylor of Barclays (pay: emoluments and benefits £737,500 or thereabouts) may then take it into his head to make another of his jokes — his previous one ran something like this: "Well, we must remember that we need to make a profit."

But how about this one? It comes from *The Sunday Times* — indeed, it comes from Tony Hetherington's successor, Roger Anderson.

My spinster aunt, aged 95... gave me power of attorney... I found that she had more than £22,000 invested with four building societies... but in every case the interest rate was derisory... the building societies... were obviously happy to capitalise on her lack of awareness... Her largest account was the Alliance & Leicester... paying 0.19% net... Bradford & Bingley (0.45%)... Halifax (0.75%)... Nationwide (0.38%)...

And the nephew of this cheated old lady adds: "...there is no evidence that any of the building societies had ever thought it necessary to contact my aunt and help her invest in higher-yielding accounts..." (One only did: National & Provincial.)

Self-regulation among the banks has been tried a thousand times and in a thousand ways, and it always comes out against the customers. I, of all people, detest interference from the State in these matters, but there is no other way to make the banks and societies even half house-trained.

And now we are told that soon the banks (you know, them with £10 billion to croon over) are going to demand payment on current accounts which remain in credit. You think they wouldn't dare? For money?

One of the gang

THOSE WHO wonder where Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber finds inspiration for his musicals may need to look no further than one of the biggest names in the rock business. Sir Andrew is a



Glitter: ever the superstar

committed Gary Glitter fan. The composer's most recent brush with the king of Glam Rock came in December, when he went to see Glitter in concert. "We went to the concert at Wembley before Christmas and had a very good time," Sir Andrew said. "I like to go to concerts like that from time to time. I think it is very important to enjoy the fun side of pop music."

He did not avail himself of the opportunity to meet Glitter backstage, but he was spotted, according to Glitter's agent, Jeff Hanton: "We saw him at the concert and he was really rocking." Hanton added that Sir Andrew's association with Glitter went back some time because the rock star was a bit-part singer on the 1970 recording of *Jesus Christ Superstar*. "Several of the smaller parts were actually sung by Gary," he said.

Sadly, Glitter was unavailable for comment yesterday, but Sir Andrew was enthusiastic about him at the London launch of his new sideline — a racing boardgame called *And They're Off* devised by racehorse trainer Charlie Brooks. The composer said he had always

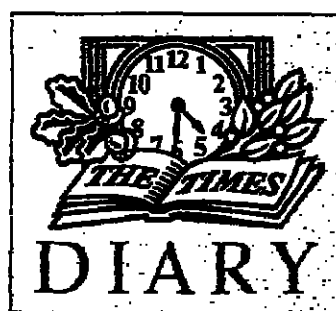
been interested in board games and had in the past invented two of his own — one about Lloyd's of London called "Calamity" and another about patients escaping from a lunatic asylum called "Insanity".

Pastors new

YORKSHIRE clergymen are swapping dog-collars for flat caps and wellies to go on a crash course in farming designed to introduce suburban vicars to rural life. The pilot project, designed by the Rev. Toddy Hoare, a Thirsk vicar and honorary chaplain to the Yorkshire Agricultural Society, requires clergy to spend one day and two nights working on farms.

Mr Hoare developed the idea in response to criticism that many young priests from theological colleges have rarely set foot off Tarmac before arriving in a rural parish. "The idea is to get them into wellies and to take part in farm life. If that means getting up at 5am and helping with the milking, or mucking pigs out, so be it."

● Celebrating his 65th birthday with a meal for friends at his Norfolk stately home this weekend was Bernard Matthews. Champagne and caviare were followed by fine



red wine and hunks of venison. But not a morsel of turkey in sight.

Royal appeal

THE ARREST last week of Prince Michael of Kent's private secretary, John Kennedy, over blackmail allegations was followed by a statement from Kensington Palace that the matter had been "entirely entrusted to Mr Kennedy's legal representatives".

I understand that the legal representative in question is none other than Desmond de Silva, QC, who has been retained by Kennedy's solicitors. De Silva is accustomed to royal affairs: he is married to a Yugoslavian princess.

● Has Baroness Thatcher finally

lost her iron grip on the hearts and minds of the Tory faithful? Her weighty volume of memoirs, *The Downing Street Years*, came bottom of the Christmas sales league at Conservative Central Office for books by or about MPs. Top of the list was Alan Clark's *Diaries*.

Zoo story

A FIVE-FOOT fibreglass head of a Tyrannosaurus rex is to grace the Speaker's office on Capitol Hill. The pugnaeous incumbent, Newt Gingrich — apparently a keen zoo-

LET ME GET THIS RIGHT, YOU SAY YOU WERE ATTACKED BY A DEAD SHEEP



logist — is said to have paid some \$5,000 to the Smithsonian Institution's natural history department in Washington to make the prehistoric monster.

"It is my understanding that the Speaker intends to put the head above the mantelpiece in his office," says Smithsonian spokesman Randall Kramer. "It's to remind himself that even the mightiest beasts may one day become extinct."

Friendly face

THE COMELY features of Sandra Howard, wife of the Home Secretary, have popped up on a brochure advertising insurance products currently doing the rounds.

She is depicted as a smiling housewife alongside a gushing endorsement of Direct Line Insurance, which is attributed to one Mrs Rusey from Southampton. The brochure, however, explains that models have been used to maintain the privacy of policyholders.

Sandra Howard was, of course, a supermodel of the 1960s, and she has dallied with the business ever since. But Direct Line claims to have had no idea that it was featuring the Home Secretary's wife: "We



Sandra Howard: homely

got our pictures from a photo library, and we were just looking for someone who represented our image. She looks nice and normal."

● Peter Bottomley, the Conservative member for Elibank, was in Cambridge yesterday addressing the university Labour Club. Hardly surprising, says a member of the university's Conservative Association. "Last time we invited him, he wore suede shoes with his dinner jacket and kept telling people to put their cigarettes out. We're no plans to ask him again."

P.H.S



TODAY AND YESTERDAY

Major has a European policy and should stick to it

Douglas Hurd assures the country that he is not "yesterday's man". He is "today's man", he says, and has "many tomorrows" in his job of Foreign Secretary. Perhaps he protests too much. Perhaps he means what he says. Whatever the precise truth of his words, however, they have brought much cheer to his supporters, particularly those who can less easily deny the "yesterday's man" tag for themselves.

For Sir Edward Heath (Prime Minister 1970-74) Mr Hurd's continuance in office is a touchstone of Tory commitment to the ideals that they both espoused in Downing Street long ago. For Lord Howe (Foreign Secretary 1983-89), Mr Hurd represents the hope of avoiding a "national tragedy of huge proportions" if the French and the Germans are allowed to unite their countries without uniting Britain to them too. For Tim Renton (Chief Whip 1989-90) Mr Hurd is a vital bulwark against European "flat-earthers" like Michael Portillo who, to Mr Renton's palpable regret, exercise a great and growing influence over the Cabinet of today.

Mr Portillo and those like-minded colleagues, once known as the bastards, have ruffled many a grey hair this year. They can claim much of the credit for edging John Major towards his commitments against further constitutional encroachments by Brussels. They were rewarded last week with wide support by colleagues in Cabinet who expressed rare levels of dissatisfaction with a European discussion document that paid too little obeisance to the new line. As a result, there is little heard now of resignations from the Cabinet right.

On the left of the Cabinet too, there is calm, at least on the surface. Lord Howe has called on those Cabinet members "seriously committed to Britain's being at the heart of Europe" to do their duty and fight for their cause. But Messrs Clarke, Heseltine and Gummer have so far done little. Mr Heseltine's contribution was to attack the Times account of last week's Cabinet meeting; other observers have preferred the

subsequent evidence of their own ears and eyes. As for Mr Clarke, struggling to recover from his role in the withdrawal of the whip from Euro-sceptic MPs, there is a prudent case for keeping his head down.

Lord Howe rejects this attitude of complacency. He wants the traditional European case to be put more vigorously. Although, in our view, he is wrong in his prescription, he is certainly right to see trouble ahead. The shift within the Cabinet does not represent merely "short-term tactical considerations of party management", as he argued in his *Financial Times* article yesterday. The changed opinion of ministers is a response to a changing perception of national interest and a growing popular sentiment in Britain and on the Continent. The Prime Minister has taken a lead and should stick to his new course. He is not even isolated among his European peers in wishing to see no major constitutional changes from the inter-governmental conference next year. Many others of them quietly agree.

The onus should be on those in favour of closer European integration to argue persuasively for it. Lady Thatcher recalls in her memoirs how "Geoffrey harboured an almost romantic longing for Britain to become part of some grandiose European consensus", as for defining this "misty Europeanism", she claims she never heard him do it. Definition is still hard to find among yesterday's idealists.

Lord Howe recalls in his own memoirs how during Edward Heath's days in Downing Street, the policy on Europe "arrived, as it were, with the rations". For many that has never changed. It will have to change if Lord Howe and his supporters are to turn old-saws into persuasive thoughts. No one should rely on stale metaphors about Britain "stalled in the slow lane of a two-speed Europe" or on glib assertions that "only by acting more closely together can we control our destiny". Those who cannot do better deserve their plight.

SMALL BLUNDER

Unionists must focus on the real issues

Peter Brooke's description of Gerry Adams as a "brave man" on television last night was an unfortunate remark which the families of IRA victims will surely have found offensive. In the same programme, Mr Adams was alleged by other interviewees to have been a leading IRA strategist and commanding officer of an IRA company in Belfast. The Sinn Féin president has always denied such charges. Yet he has never disguised his sympathy for militant republicanism.

Mr Brooke might indeed have phrased his comments more carefully. Peter Robinson, the Democratic Unionist MP, doubtless spoke for many yesterday when he said that the former Northern Ireland Secretary's remarks reflected "the empty-headed blundering of the Government". The memory of Mr Brooke singing "Oh My Darling Clementine" on television on the day of an IRA atrocity three years ago is still fresh in the Province.

It is important, however, that the Unionist community should not overreact. In the first place, the main point made by the former Northern Ireland Secretary — that Mr Adams played a key role in persuading the IRA to call a ceasefire — is not contentious. Whether his actions have been courageous, as Mr Brooke claimed, is open to debate. The republican leader has clearly calculated that the interests of his movement are now best served by inclusion in the peace process. Yesterday the fruits of this tactic were clear in Mr Adams's latest high-level meeting, in this case with Bertie Ahern, the leader of Fianna Fáil. History will judge whether the Sinn Féin leader's strategy is brave, deeply

manipulative or both. Secondly, Unionists should be concentrating on the more important issues ahead of them. Mr Brooke's minor act of insensitivity may raise hackles, but is of little importance in the complex scheme of the peace process. It is vital that the Unionists focus their attentions on the right questions, such as the de-commissioning of terrorist weapons and the contents of the forthcoming joint framework document. In particular, they must make clear to the British Government that systematic early release of terrorist prisoners should not be countenanced.

Republican and loyalist inmates account for 65 per cent of the 1,800 prisoners in the Province. Those campaigning on their behalf point out that Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, is technically able to free lifers at any point in their sentence. There is also lobbying for a change in the rules on remission for inmates serving determinate sentences. Dublin's plans to release up to five IRA prisoners, disclosed this week, have added to the pressure on the British Government to follow suit.

Extending home leave and allowing terrorist prisoners on the mainland to return to custody in Ulster may be acceptable gestures in some cases. But the British Government should not be tempted into any change of policy that could be interpreted as an amnesty — however discreet. Unionist politicians should emphasise the risks of such a measure. In practice, their success in the peace process will depend on their capacity to establish priorities and pursue them with vigour.

JUSTICE AT SEA

The QE2 has hit the rocks of American litigation

The slow and churlish early handling of the QE2's grim Christmas voyage left Cunard and its parent company, Trafalgar House, with few claims on public sympathy. The initial decision to sail when the liner's £30 million refit was manifestly unfinished was cavalier enough. The error was compounded when instead of listening to more than justified complaints about rubbish-strewn corridors and saloons, icy cabins and leaks and worse in the plumbing, a Cunard spokesman rebuked the passengers for "whingeing". The first offers of compensation made by Trafalgar House fell well short of what could reasonably be expected of a company claiming to offer the last word in seaborne luxury. The £7.5 million package now on offer emerged only after negotiations which should never have been necessary. Cunard's reputation for customer relations has been holed below the waterline.

None of this justifies the extravagant damages, estimated by one of the litigants at up to £40 million, being sought in the class action now being filed against Cunard by a group of passengers in the United States. All affected passengers have now been offered a full refund, plus free tickets of equivalent value for a cruise during 1995 on any Cunard vessel of their choice. Most are likely, sensibly, to settle for that, although Cunard should respond generously and without further call to cases of actual physical injury. Even if it is granted that people do not book luxury cruises with the

idea that they are going on an adventure holiday, the claims made by this litigious group for "mental stress" have made in America stamped all over them.

As Professor Christine Hall, the QE2 passenger and law professor who is serving as one of the counsel, said at the time of the voyage, "in America you can sue for anything". You can sue, for fun and profit, virtually without financial risk, too, under the contingency-fee system. In consequence, the huge sums to be made in the US by suing over the smallest mishap have pushed up the costs of everything from surgery to leisure pursuits. Illegitimate greed has become entwined with the legitimate pursuit of legal rights. Inevitably, car stickers read: "Hit me, I need the money."

Juries in America decide damages, not judges, and take a vicarious delight in massive awards: witness the £1.9 million in damages awarded last year against McDonald's hamburger chain for serving its coffee "too hot". Average consumers indirectly pay the price of such awards, and as this is more widely realised, there is a growing American backlash against abusive litigation. Most QE2 passengers emerged from their Christmas trip unscathed even if rightly disgruntled — and for once, found their neighbours avid for every detail of their trip. They will get their money back, and are offered another cruise that matches their disappointed expectations. Justice surely demands no more.

Tory split over Euro-sceptic line

From Lord Rippon of Hexham

Sir, As the minister who carried the European Communities Act through the House of Commons in 1972, I commend the Prime Minister for maintaining the basic policies advocated by Lady Thatcher in her speech at Bruges in 1989.

However, I am not renewing my membership of the Bruges Group. It has become a fringe organisation. I deplore the support voiced by many of its members for the so-called "Euro-sceptics". The Euro-sceptics' offence was in refusing to support a vote of confidence. They are a tiny splinter group consisting of some who have always been opposed to our going into Europe; others are simply embittered or disappointed, a number of whom have now become over-excited by publicity.

Yours faithfully,
RIPPON OF HEXHAM
(Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, 1970-72).
The Old Vicarage, Broomfield,
Nr Bridgewater, Somerset.
January 30.

From the Head of External Relations,
Commission of the European
Communities Office, London

Sir, In his article of January 27, "Why we need a referendum", Sir James Goldsmith states in relation to the forthcoming inter-governmental conference that "changes are vital because Maastricht has already created conditions which will inevitably lead to a supranational European state run by an unelected commission in Brussels, masked by a veneer of democracy supplied by the European Parliament".

This is a preposterous remark. The European Commission does not possess a vote in any European Union decision and there is no intention that it should have one. The European Parliament of course has votes but it does not have the right of decision, at least not so far. Decision remains in the hands of ministers of national governments, including the Government of the United Kingdom.

Any change in these arrangements would in any case require ratification by governments. Does Sir James seriously believe that the Parliament at Westminster would agree to the creation of a single central European state? As he is always concerned to air his fantasies, would it not be useful for readers to learn more about his plans for a realistic workable alternative to current arrangements as the Union attracts new members?

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY MARTIN,
The European Commission,
8 Storey's Gate, SW1.
January 27.

From Mr Richard Rawsthorn

Sir, Tim Renton, MP, the former Chief Whip, calls the Euro-sceptics "flat earthers" (report, January 30). This is an infernal cheek.

It is the pro-Europeans who have lost their grip on reality. Enthralled by their vision of Britain being swept by a tide of historical inevitability towards union with Europe, the pro-Europeans have overlooked the hard fact that an overwhelming majority of the British people do not want this.

However, the pro-Europeans are right to point out the damage which Britain is suffering as a result of its present Maastricht policy of hoping that the European Union will surrender its ambitions of further integration and assume a more acceptable form.

This may happen, or it may not only time will tell. In the meantime, Britain's best course would be to withdraw from the European Union and get on with shaping its own future.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD RAWSTHORN,
Barcroft, Cliviger,
Nr Burnley, Lancashire.
January 30.

Bird cull protest

From the Director of the
Salmon & Trout Association

Sir, Mr H. J. Marden (letter, January 20) claims that "Any fisherman worth his salt knows that mergansers, goosanders and cormorants perform a cull". He goes on to say that perhaps 80 per cent of the parr involved are sick and injured, and that the diet of these birds includes coarse fish.

As the principal organisation representing game anglers in the UK and having examined evidence submitted from our members and angling clubs all over the country, as well as the official research sponsored by the National Rivers Authority, I can assure Mr Marden that fish-eating birds are decimating healthy stocks of game and coarse fish in rivers, lakes and ponds the length and breadth of the country.

This association does not advocate the wholesale shooting of fish-eating birds; further research on the reasons for the growth in cormorant and saw-bill populations is required, and a long-term management strategy to restore the balance between predator and prey.

Yours sincerely,
C. W. POUPARD, Director,
The Salmon & Trout Association,
Fishmongers' Hall,
London Bridge, EC4.
January 20.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Disagreement on teaching priorities in primary schools

From Mr Geoffrey J. Samuel

Sir, The Chief Inspector of Schools is absolutely right in his discussion of prejudice in primary schools against formal instruction ("Teach our teachers a lesson", January 26). "Didactic" has become a term of opprobrium among teachers with inevitable consequences for standards.

But Christopher Woodhead is wrong to ascribe all the blame to teachers. In the secondary sector his own teams of inspectors are having a marked influence. Unfortunately many of them are dominated by local authority inspectors who are often politically motivated or inept (or both).

The dominant tone of inspection reports of schools which espouse Mr Woodhead's own values is one of carping criticism. Frequent mention is made of "a lack of variety of teaching styles". This is of course supported by "evidence" and followed by stern admonitions to introduce change. On the other hand schools which subscribe to the dominant values of the educational establishment can expect a whitewash even if they are palpably failing their pupils.

In this school we have a dilemma as we prepare for inspection in the autumn. If we continue with the policies in which we believe and which have produced exceptional examination results for our pupils, we shall invite a critical and damaging report. On the other hand we can abandon formal instruction and become converted to the kind of approaches which find favour with Mr Woodhead's inspectors. What does he suggest that I should do?

Yours sincerely,
GEOFFREY J. SAMUEL
(Headmaster),
The Heathland School,
Wellington Road South,
Hounslow, Middlesex.
January 26.

From Mr Adrian Townsend

Sir, You reported primary schools being described as the "weakest link" in the educational system (details, January 23) without paying attention to the funding system which discriminates against them. This is unfair.

Mr Woodhead's own department gave evidence last year to a Commons select committee inquiry into the disparity of funding between primary and secondary schools. The inquiry showed that on average a secondary pupil received around 40 per cent more funding than a primary pupil, a differential that should be borne in

mind when making simple comparisons between the sectors. Eleven failing primary schools out of 778 inspected is 1.4 per cent. Twelve out of 1,000 secondary is 1 per cent, hardly a "bad" comparison in the circumstances.

The select committee produced 38 recommendations and conclusions. Among them was one that any increase in funding should be distributed disproportionately in favour of primary schools. My own school (the average size for an Oxfordshire primary) would gain an additional two or three teachers if it was funded in the same way as a local secondary school. Specialist subject teaching and different class arrangements could then easily be established.

Primary teachers are undervalued. They have been oppressed by eight years of sweeping reforms, but the notion that they can deliver five-star service with three-star funding is completely unfair.

Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN TOWNSEND
(Headteacher),
New Hinkley First School,
Vicarage Road, Oxford.

From Mr George D. Handley

Sir, As an Ofsted inspector with many years' experience as a primary head, I endorse the concerns expressed by Christopher Woodhead about educational standards. In our primary schools we have been too much at the mercy of fashion, romantic ideologies and bandwagons.

There is no doubt that the rejection of the didactic approach and the exclusive emphasis on what is "relevant to the immediate interests of children" have both taken their toll. However, when Mr Woodhead emphasises the teaching of knowledge and facts at the expense of the development of skills, he is surely making a big mistake.

Skills are supremely important for living. All who have taken exams know that regurgitated information disappears from the memory over time whilst skills such as being able to think coherently and to articulate ideas with clarity last a lifetime.

Yours sincerely,
GEORGE D. HANDLEY,
The Hylands, Sedburgh, Cumbria.

From Mr Chris McDonnell

Sir, The article by Christopher Woodhead takes us down a familiar path. Having determined what we teach in primary schools by defining a national

curriculum, we now move on to how we deliver that curriculum and manage our classrooms.

Significant improvement in standards will only come about when we honestly address the issue of class size, a matter of concern to every parent. It is of course economically expedient to advocate didacticism or formal instruction. If a teacher can perform for 25 children, why not address 35 or 45 children at the same time? Of course there will be occasions when a teacher addresses the larger group but why must we denigrate the other vital roles, of facilitator, enabler and enthusiastic source of encouragement?

Through the underfunding of the primary sector, we are now making demands on our teaching staff that cannot be met. We are losing the struggle to meet the challenge of the national curriculum as class numbers soar.

Yours sincerely,
CHRIS McDONNELL
(Headteacher),
Fulford Primary School,
Rugeley Road,
Burntwood, Staffordshire.
January 28.

From Mr Robert Bear

Sir, It is not "progressive teaching orthodoxy" which is "at the heart of falling standards", as stated in your leading article (January 23) endorsing the views of Christopher Woodhead. The trouble is that there are not enough competent teachers capable of treating critically (in the best sense of the word) all preconceived theories and orthodoxies — progressive or non-progressive, "wrongheaded" or right-headed.

There is no recipe, or improved recipes, that will make the product called good education universally available in, as it were, a national sort of scholastic Marks & Spencer. Like life itself education is not easily definable. Essential education is a constant and, at best, joyful challenge for tutor and pupil alike.

Standards will be raised only when schools are in a position to attract a sufficient number of teachers of a high calibre. This is a problem for government, local authorities, unions and, possibly, society at large.

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT BEAR,
Cheltenham Language Tutors,
3 Kensington Avenue,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.
January 29.

Product placement

From Mr Martin Pearce

Sir, It's not just in the *Radio Times* that the BBC becomes rather too closely linked with sponsors ("A clash of TV cultures", Media and Marketing, January 18). Its programmes too reveal an alarming degree of product placement, presumably by willing and grateful sponsors.

One of my favourites, *One Foot in the Grave*, strikes me as one of the most guilty. The Christmas episode had Victor Meldrew extolling the virtues of Peugeot cars, while clearly eating Cadbury's chocolate. Last week's episode had him in a solicitor's with an unmistakable Sainsbury's carrier bag.

Jasper Carrot had whole segments in his Christmas show spoofing various ads; but the joke relied on Carrot showing most of the ad first. Very good news if you were one of those featured.

Nor is this confined to BBC1. On January 16 the BBC2 documentary *Virtually Las Vegas* had a long, lingering interview with an architect with not just one but three cans of Diet Coke in shot.

These are just three random examples from what is supposedly a non-commercial channel. Whilst I would not want the BBC to revert to the extremes that it used to when John Noakes was on *Blue Peter*, where he had to refer to detergent bottles rather than Fairy Liquid bottles, I do feel the pendulum has swung too far the other way.

Yours faithfully,
M. PEARCE,
Brewery Court,
Theale, Berkshire.
January 18.

Sisterly support

From Mr Christopher
Elsworth, FRCS

Sir, I am delighted that the Cornish theatre sister who did more than her fair share of a recent appendicectomy operation has been let off with a caution (report, January 27). This is a victory of common sense over media outrage.

I left rather a mess in the operating theatre after putting on a plaster of Paris cast yesterday afternoon. Our theatre sister threatened to remove my appendix in retribution. Whereas I have every confidence in her skill and ability, I had a suspicion that anaesthesia was not included in the deal. I suggested that she stick to her job description and beat a hasty retreat.

I am optimistic that I also may be let off with a caution.

Yours etc,
CHRISTOPHER ELSWORTH
(Consultant orthopaedic surgeon),
14 Marlow Drive,
Didsbury, Manchester 20.
January 27.

WHO and Afghans

From Dr A. John Robertson

Sir, The United Nations and the World Health Organisation are not universally popular, so may I draw your attention to an outstanding recent success in war-torn Afghanistan? An expanded programme of immunisation (EPI) was proposed, and the WHO Afghan representative discussed this with leaders in all regions. A ceasefire was promised for the week of November 19-25, 1994, to allow volunteers to vaccinate mothers against tetanus and their children against measles and poliomyelitis.

It worked splendidly. Even on November 26, as a volunteer WHO consultant I could not get into some parts of a hospital near Mazar-e-Sharif because of queues of families still seeking their vaccines.

About one million children under five were helped with polio and vitamin A (80 per cent of the target), January 23.

HMS Caroline

From Captain M. C. Henry, RN

Sir, Has Mr John Hinton (letter, January 26) been to Belfast, I wonder? HMS Caroline is at least as visible in Belfast harbour as HMS Belfast is in London.

Caroline is a living, used, ship; she has been the headquarters of the Ulster Division/RNR since its formation 71 years ago; she is the only historic warship in Northern Ireland. To take her away would cost the Navy more money and erode the identity and morale of the Ulster Division.

I think it is rather presumptuous to suggest that taking her away from her present purpose in Belfast would rescue HMS Caroline from "obscurity".

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL C. HENRY,
Aldvuth,
Garelochhead, Dunbartonshire.
January 26.

Just rewards

From Mr Peter Orr

Sir, Mr Gratwick (letter, January 27) believes that "our children should be taught in their schools that the high salaries of such as Cahir Brown set a target for all to aim at". From my schooldays, half a century ago, I still remember the prayer exhorting us "to labour and not to ask for any reward save that of knowing that we do Thy will". Our values seem to have changed over the years.

Yours faithfully,
PETER ORR,
17 Berkley Drive,
Guisborough, Cleveland.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

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ARTS 33-35

Super substitute:
Kiri Te Kanawa
storms the Met



LAW 37-41

Free to marry
with more style
than ever



SPORT 43-48

Herbert teams up
in the fast lane
with Benetton



WOMEN
HELPING
WOMEN
Small business 32

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY JANUARY 31 1995

Trafalgar attacks Northern record

By MARTIN WALLER
DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

TRAFALGAR HOUSE, the engineering-to-shipping conglomerate bidding £1.2 billion for Northern Electric, has attacked its target's management and performance and claims that profits from the main business are set to slide.

In a circular to Northern shareholders, Trafalgar states that the company's record since privatisation is "one of indifferent cost control and relatively high tariff increases for domestic customers".

Trafalgar says that profits from Northern's distribution business "are widely expected to fall after April 1", while the sustainability of earnings from other activities was "questionable". From that date, Northern faces a tougher regime of price controls set by Professor Stephen Littlechild, the industry regulator.

The bid for Northern is under consideration at the Office of Fair Trading, which must advise the Government whether to allow it through or refer it to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for a longer consideration.

The OFT has heard the views of the regulator, Nigel Rich. Trafalgar's chief executive, said he expected the bid to be cleared by the OFT, although market-watchers are divided on the issue.

In its document, Trafalgar makes a promise to maintain Northern Electric's head office in Newcastle-upon-Tyne and to keep the company as a stand-alone business.

The conglomerate says that Northern's operating costs in the distribution and supply businesses have risen 21 per cent since the 1990 privatisation, although Northern says that this was a result of rapid expansion of the supply side.

Trafalgar also says that tariffs to Northern's domestic customers have risen 11 per cent over the same period, a figure that the electricity company says does not take account of customer rebates.

The Trafalgar document reveals that the sale of its Cunard Princess cruise ship raised \$35 million. The group said that the sale to Elinor Shipping Company was due to be completed in May.

By GEORGE SIVELL AND
COLIN NARBROUGH

HOECHST, the world's fourth-largest drugs group, says it will not emerge as a white knight for Wellcome to save it from Glaxo's £9.2 billion bid. Meanwhile, speculation grew that Hoechst is negotiating a \$7 billion bid for Marion Merrell Dow, the American pharmaceutical company.

Hoechst said it would not bid for Wellcome, but declined to comment on reports that it is looking at Marion Merrell Dow, which is 71 per cent owned by Dow Chemical.

Dow has already confirmed that Marion Merrell is up for sale and Hoechst told its shareholders in November that it was "underweight" in America. Hoechst is unlikely, however, to make a big corporate move until after its next management board meeting in early March.

Marion Merrell Dow, based in Kansas City, retained investment bankers last August to "explore a variety of options" including the selling of the company. There were to be "no geographical restrictions" on where a potential buyer was based, confirming that European pharmaceutical giants were being considered. Dow, however, declined to comment on reports of the Hoechst tie-up.

Wellcome, meanwhile, is expected by the market to rush out its full-year results for 1994 as part of efforts to establish

that the Glaxo bid undervalues the company and its prospects. Full-year results were originally due in the first week in March, but that may prove too late — even if the Glaxo offer document is delayed until next week.

Before the Glaxo bid the market had expected Wellcome to raise pre-tax profits by

almost 20 per cent from \$624 million to £720 million. Analysts believe that by pulling out all the stops Wellcome will now be able to achieve a figure of about £725 million, which would be at the top of the range of stockbrokers' forecasts.

Wellcome shares yesterday fell 17p to 98p, a discount to the Glaxo offer, worth £10.08 share a yesterday, indicating the market's belief that having secured the backing of the charitable Wellcome Trust, which owns almost 40 per cent of the company, Glaxo is likely to win.

Glaxo is offering £722 cash and 47 Glaxo shares for each 100 Wellcome shares. Glaxo

slipped 7p to 610p yesterday. The Wellcome board has set itself the target of finding a friendly white knight bidder within 21 days of the Glaxo offer document appearing.

The market is doubtful that Wellcome can find a white knight to outbid Glaxo in time, but it has narrowed the potential candidates down to Johnson & Johnson, the American consumer products group, Roche, Merck, the American pharmaceutical giant, Pfizer and Bristol-Myers Squibb of America. Pfizer is believed to have talked to the Wellcome Trust about a potential offer last year, but was unwilling to pay more than £9 a share.

Both Glaxo and Wellcome will have an interest in America's National Conference on AIDS in Washington, where the latest clinical trial data on drugs to treat the condition are released.

Wellcome's AZT, which is a basis for the chemical cocktails used to treat AIDS, will be looked at closely along with Glaxo's 3TC, which is being tested in combination with AZT. Glaxo intends to file for approval for 3TC later this year.

Hoechst rules itself out as Wellcome white knight

Walls misses out on options bonanza

By PATRICIA TEHAN

RUSSELL WALLS, the finance director of Wellcome who joined the company days before Glaxo launched its hostile bid, has missed out on a generous share option scheme because he arrived in the new job during the so-called closed season.

Other Wellcome directors enjoy lucrative share options and employment contracts. Seven of them should collect £10 million in share options and contract termination agreements if the bid is successful, £6 million of which is in share option entitlements.

Mr Walls took up his new job on New Year's day, leaving his position as finance director of Coats Vyeella. If Glaxo

succeeds, he should benefit from the early termination of his standard two-year rolling service contract. The company declined to comment on the size of his basic salary, but it is thought to be in the region of £300,000.

However, since he joined the company after the end of its financial year, and before the publication of its financial results, directors' share dealings are prohibited and he has not yet been awarded share options.

Wellcome had expected to publish its results at the beginning of March and the share committee would normally sit in the three trading days after publication of the results to grant further share options as it saw fit.

The Glaxo bid values Wellcome at £8.7 billion, but the full cost of the bid would be £500 million higher once all the Wellcome share options have been exercised.

At August 31, 1994, Wellcome directors and staff had options over 45.1 million shares, according to the company's last annual accounts, and stand to make a profit of £170 million if Glaxo's bid is successful.

The executive scheme had options over 12.4 million shares. John Robb, chairman and chief executive, had options over 250,756 shares, worth £2.6 million. He would make a profit of £1.54 million if he exercised the options and then sold at Glaxo's offer price. He also owns a further 13,750 shares.

(Pennington, page 27)

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BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET	NOTICES
FT-SE 100	2995.9 (-28.3)
Yield	4.32%
FT-SE All share	1402.45 (-10.59)
Nikkei	15762.88 (+648.53)
New York	3834.78 (-23.21)*
Dow Jones	488.39 (-2.00)*
S&P Composite	

US RATE	
Federal Funds	5 1/4% (5 1/4%)
Long Bond	97 1/2% (97 1/2%)
Yield	7.76% (7.75%)

LONDON MONEY	
3-mth Interbank	8 1/4% (8 1/4%)
6-mth Interbank	8 1/2% (8 1/2%)
12-mth Interbank	8 3/4% (8 3/4%)
3-mth Long Gilt	10 1/4% (10 1/4%)
6-mth Long Gilt	10 1/2% (10 1/2%)
12-mth Long Gilt	10 3/4% (10 3/4%)

STERLING	
New York	1.5835* (1.5885)
London	
DM	1.9239 (1.9285)
DM	2.3974 (2.4074)
FF	1.3670 (1.3715)
Sfr	2.0216 (2.0242)
Yen	158.76 (157.74)
£ Index	79.9 (80.0)

\$\$\$ \$ DOLLAR	
London	
DM	1.5838* (1.5150)
FF	5.2175* (5.2565)
Sfr	1.3670* (1.3735)
Yen	98.35* (98.37)
£ Index	62.3 (62.4)

Tokyo close Yen 99.18	
DM	1.5838* (1.5150)
FF	5.2175* (5.2565)
Sfr	1.3670* (1.3735)
Yen	98.35* (98.37)
£ Index	62.3 (62.4)

WORTH \$500	
DM	1.5838* (1.5150)
FF	5.2175* (5.2565)
Sfr	1.3670* (1.3735)
Yen	98.35* (98.37)
£ Index	62.3 (62.4)

London close	
DM	1.5838* (1.5150)
FF	5.2175* (5.2565)
Sfr	1.3670* (1.3735)
Yen	98.35* (98.37)
£ Index	62.3 (62.4)

* denotes midday trading price

Money supply surprise unlikely to tilt rates decision

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE supply of banknotes and coins in circulation fell this month, surprising City forecasters. However, the reduction is unlikely to tip the balance against an interest rate rise if the Bank of England recommends one on Thursday, when the Governor meets the Chancellor.

Narrow money M0, which includes notes and coins in circulation and bankers' working balances, slipped by a seasonally adjusted 0.3 per cent in January. This took its annual rate of growth down to 6.4 per cent, from 6.8 per cent in December.

M0, because of its cash component, is often seen as having a close relationship with retail sales, although this relationship did not work well last year. Some economists yesterday argued that the drop in M0 in January suggested that, after healthy sales in the run-up to Christmas, activity had tailed off.

This might marginally persuade Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, the Governor, to err on the side of caution in discussing interest rates at their monthly monetary meeting on Thursday. However, the importance of M0, which has been consistently above target during the recovery, has been downgraded repeatedly by the authorities, which give far more weight to other indicators.

These indicators, including price rise intentions in Confederation of British Industry surveys, December's higher than expected producer and

retail prices figures and fourth-quarter figures for gross domestic product showing scarcely any slowing in economic growth at the end of 1994, all weigh for a rate rise.

A report by NTC Research to be published this week suggests that prices, though not necessarily overall inflation, may be about to turn at a greater rate than many have been expecting, but that these price rises may not necessarily be significant.

A base rate decision may come after Thursday's meeting or after the next monthly meeting, when Mr Clarke and Mr George have the benefit of January's economic data.

The problem with basing policy decisions on December data — and yesterday's M0 figures are no exception — is that it is notoriously hard to seasonally adjust figures at this time of year. Most economists yesterday said that the M0 figure was in all likelihood distorted by seasonal adjustment problems.

Also issued yesterday were figures for mortgage lending by banks — again, hard to interpret because they are not seasonally adjusted. Major British banks made gross loans of £1.44 billion in December, nearly 10 per cent lower than the underlying amount in November. The value of new approvals fell from £1.42 billion in November to £1.16 billion. The British Bankers' Association said that these declines were probably wholly seasonal.

Pennington, page 27

Market falls below 3,000

The FT-SE 100 index fell below the 3,000-mark yesterday, dragged down by March futures. The March Future FT-SE 100 also fell below 3,000, tumbling 38 points to 2,993. In the cash market, the FT-SE 100 fell 26.3 to close at 2,995.9. Dealers said that the stock market was nervous of the prospect of interest rate rises in America, where the Federal Open Market Committee meets this week, and in Britain when the Chancellor and the Governor meet on Thursday. Page 28

Fewer take fixed-rate mortgages

By ROBERT MILLER

THE number of borrowers taking out fixed-rate mortgages has slumped from three out of four to one in three, according to the latest figures from the British Bankers' Association.

Lenders borrow money in the wholesale money markets to fund fixed rate mortgages, and these markets are now betting on an interest rate rise in the near future. This has pushed the cost of borrowing fixed-rate money much closer to the prevailing cost of a variable rate mortgage, at around 8.35 to 8.4 per cent.

Lenders are also wooing borrowers away from cheaper fixed-rate loans into discounted mortgage packages with a cash discount sweetener. Ian Darby, a director of John Charcol, an independent mortgage adviser, said: "The price of fixed-rate loans has moved up in anticipation of future base rate rises. The present cost of a five-year fixed mortgage is now around 9.5 per cent, compared with 6.75 per cent a year ago."

£20,000 fine for 'blatant dishonesty' with employers and SFA

Expelled finance officer fled to Russia

By JON ASHWORTH

A CITY finance officer who falsified documents in an attempt to obtain up to £1 million has been expelled by the Securities and Futures Authority. Andrew Stuart Rooke, former operations manager at Bayerische Landesbank Girozentrale (BLG), is understood to have fled to Russia. The matter has been referred to the City of London police.

Mr Rooke has been fined £20,000 and ordered to pay costs of £5,000 for

"blatant dishonesty" in his dealings with the SFA and his German employers. He was dismissed in July 1993 after it emerged that he had forged a letter to his solicitors to the effect that BLG would be paying £1 million for his benefit. This was not the case.

It subsequently turned out that Mr Rooke had a criminal record. He was convicted in 1987 of eight offences including obtaining property by deception, forgery and use of false documentation. He had failed to disclose the conviction on his SFA

application form. In addition, he had claimed that he was a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, had seven GCE A-level passes, had attended various centres of learning, had acquired Italian professional qualifications, and had certain actuarial and taxation qualifications. None of that was true.

The matter was referred to the SFA's disciplinary tribunal and was heard in Mr Rooke's absence since he had gone to Russia and was "unwilling to return". The tribunal ruled that he had

deliberately concealed his recent criminal conviction and was blatantly dishonest in misleading his employers and the SFA.

In an unrelated move, the SFA has expelled Peter James West, a former futures and options specialist with Bear Stearns International. Mr West left the firm in November 1993 after it emerged that he had been secretly doing business for himself using the firm's name. A disciplinary tribunal subsequently ordered him to pay costs of £24,160.

Dear John,
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4.64% fixed rate mortgage. I am eternally grateful.
Yours faithfully,
A Bishop

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New premiums decline 2% at Standard Life

By Robert Miller

STANDARD Life, Europe's largest mutual insurance company with £39 billion of funds under management, yesterday announced that in spite of increasing its share of the life and pensions market last year, total new premiums fell 2 per cent to £2.03 billion, compared with the previous year.

The company also became the latest life office to announce cuts in the terminal bonus rates paid on its unisex with-profit life and pension policies. Terminal bonuses are awarded when a

policy matures and can account for up to 50 per cent of the final payout. Standard Life said that reversionary bonuses on its traditional with-profit policies, which were declared at last year's interim stage, are unchanged.

The biggest challenge to Standard Life in the immediate future, however, is to replace the business lost as a result of the termination of its tie-up with the Halifax Building Society that ended on January 9. On that date, Halifax launched its own life company.

Tom King, general manager of sales and a director of Standard Life, said: "Sales of

individual pensions business were well down on last year. This was largely anticipated in light of continuing media criticism and the expected reduction in contracted-out contributions from the DSS, which fell by 31 per cent." Standard Life's worldwide new business premiums, which include Canada, the Republic of Ireland and Spain as well as the UK, were £2.59 billion.

Another life company, Scottish Mutual, the Abbey National life and pensions subsidiary that deals with the independent financial advisers market, announced yesterday that

total new premium income last year rose 18 per cent to £462 million. Total new single life and pensions premiums rose to £443 million (£372 million) although new annual premiums fell by £1 million to £19 million.

J Rothschild Assurance (JRA), the life company, yesterday announced that its regular premium income increased 1 per cent to £30.8 million last year. Total new premium income, including unit trust sales, rose 30 per cent to £428.4 million. JRA is to launch an integrated life, investment and banking programme in April.

Outsider to process Royal Bank cheques

ROYAL Bank of Scotland has become the first of the six biggest high street banks to hand its cheque processing over to an outside firm. EDS, the information technology company, will take over the processing of 300 million Royal Bank cheques next year. It has set up two new processing centres, one at Livingston, Lothian, and the other at Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, at a cost of £30 million and is also holding talks with other banks. The Co-operative Bank said last year that it had appointed Unisys to process its cheques.

A Royal Bank spokesman said that 210 staff — 60 in Edinburgh and the rest in London — will be invited to move to the new operations or to relocate within the bank. He said that Royal Bank hoped to avoid compulsory redundancies wherever possible. Cheque volumes were declining steadily because of the increasing use of debit and credit cards, the spokesman said. "In that environment, we are going to see a rise in unit costs unless we do something about it," he said.

GM businesses report

TWO General Motors subsidiaries reported mixed fortunes. Electronic Data Systems saw net income rise to \$237 million in the three months to December and by 14 per cent to \$822 million for the whole of 1994. The company's profits are used to calculate the earnings per share of General Motors Class E common stock; earnings per share rose 13 per cent to \$1.71 from \$1.51 in 1993. Earnings for the quarter at GM Hughes Electronics fell to \$225 million from \$245 million in October-December 1993. Revenue also fell, to \$3.62 billion (\$3.7 billion).

Receivers appointed

ADMINISTRATIVE receivers have been appointed to Domaine Leisure, which has 840 holiday homes at five sites in Cornwall and North Devon and operates the Cornwall Coliseum. Joint receivers John Talbot and Peter Tuch, of Arthur Andersen, said trading would continue and all holiday bookings made with Cornish Manor Holidays and Hosesasons would not be affected. The company, with a turnover of £42 million last year, experienced trading difficulties stemming from the recession.

Filtronic leaps 243%

SHARES in Filtronic Comtek, a supplier of microwave devices to the cellular radio market that was floated at 105p in October, rose another 13p to 187p after unveiling a 243 per cent rise in interim profits. In the half-year to end-November the company lifted pre-tax profits to £1.5 million from a pre-forma £438,000, giving earnings of 3.23p (8.17p) a share. Sales rose to £12.05 million (£9.3 million). As expected, there is no interim dividend. The company proposes to declare its first payout at the time of the final results.

Amey wins council work

AMEY, the construction group, has won a facilities management contract worth £74 million over five years from Portsmouth City Council. The contract, won through the group's Amey Facilities Management subsidiary, includes environmental work, housing and highway maintenance, fleet management and managing certain leisure facilities. It will involve the transfer of about 1,000 staff. Neil Ashley, Amey chairman, said that there had been keen competition from the in-house team and other companies.

US step for shoe group

CHAMBERLAIN PHIPPS, the maker of footwear and footwear materials that returned to the stock market last year, has taken its first steps into American manufacturing. It is paying \$9 million for Knapp, which makes industrial safety shoes and footwear for harsh environments. In the 11 months to December 3, Knapp earned \$2.04 million profit before interest and tax on sales of \$30.6 million. Net assets were \$5.2 million at December 3. Chamberlain Phipps said that Knapp would complement its Canadian operations.

Bonn's pace on reform 'imperils sale of Telekom'

By Colin Narbrough, World Trade Correspondent

THE spectre of the postponement of the biggest privatisation in Europe — the partial disposal of Deutsche Telekom, Germany's telecommunications monopoly — was raised yesterday.

Wilhelm Pöhlmann, Telekom's acting management board chairman, yesterday issued a warning that the Telekom flotation will have to be postponed unless the German Government speeds up legislation on market rules.

In the international rush to stake out a share of the huge and lucrative German market before Telekom loses its monopoly status, British Telecom and Cable & Wireless have formed alliances with German partners.

Herr Pöhlmann, who took the helm of Telekom after the resignation last month of Helmut Rieke from the chairmanship, made clear that gov-

ernment plans to introduce crucial regulatory legislation in the second half of next year were wholly unacceptable.

In an interview in *Handelsblatt*, the Düsseldorf financial newspaper, he said that Telekom was not afraid of competition, but that it had to know what to expect.

The planned flotation of the first DM15 billion tranche of Telekom next year will play a central part in preparing the German market for overall deregulation in 1998, in keeping with the European Union timetable.

The Bonn Government, which has been accused of stacking the Telekom supervisory board with politicians, has said that it plans only to legislate next year on deregulation and to issue the first licences to Telekom's rivals in 1997, the year before general liberalisation.

Herr Pöhlmann's call for early clarity on the conditions and numbers of licences to be awarded came ahead of a meeting today between Wolfgang Bötsch, the Post and Telecommunications Minister, and leading industrialists concerned about the Government's slowness over deregulation. Prominent among companies represented will be Viag and Veba, the German partners of BT and C&W, respectively. The companies' joint plans foresee billions of marks of investment in Germany over the next few years.

Sir Iain Vallance, the BT chairman, has said that BT's joint venture with Viag aims to get a 10 to 15 per cent share of the German market and that he expects that the alliance will be awarded a licence to operate telephone services before 1998.



John Haynes, chairman of Haynes, which was held back by lower demand for car repair manuals

RTZ copper and gold output slows

RTZ's gold and copper output fell in the last three months of last year by more than 6 per cent (Colin Campbell writes). Quarterly output of copper fell from 156,700 tonnes to 146,600 tonnes, while gold totalled 328,000 ounces in the December quarter, compared with 352,000 ounces. But RTZ's total production of copper for the year ended December 31 was up to 609,900 tonnes (570,400 tonnes). Full-year gold output was 5.46 per cent down, at 1,298 million ounces (1,373 million ounces).

Analysts say lower gold and copper output should not have a material impact on RTZ's full-year results because of higher prices during 1994.

Public to have say on Crest share deals

By Patricia Tehan, Banking Correspondent

THE Treasury is to ask the public what it thinks of the proposed regulations for the new Crest paperless share settlement system next month.

The Treasury plans to publish draft legislation for Crest, after revisions this month that followed limited circulation of the regulations to market participants.

Iain Saville, the Bank of England's Crest project controller, said that the draft legislation for public consultation would also be sent to all listed companies.

In a Crest newsletter, Mr Saville said that the Bank's Crest team had also begun

Poor sales put brakes on at Haynes

POOR sales of car repair manuals in Britain in the first quarter held back interim profits at Haynes Publishing Group (Martin Barrow writes).

The company is maintaining the dividend at 4p a share after returning taxable profits almost unchanged at £2.15 million for the six months to November 30, compared with £2.11 million. The shares fell 20p to 330p.

In spite of a recovery in demand in the approach to Christmas, it was unlikely that profits lost in the first quarter would be recovered before the year end, said Max Pearce, group chief executive. Earnings were 8.2p a share, compared with 8.1p.

Mr Saville said that those firms wishing to operate in Crest under the names of several legal entities, for instance in order to reflect different companies within a group, must operate several memberships.

KHD sells tractor division in rescue

THE Cologne engineering group Klöckner-Humboldt-Deutz (KHD) is to sell off its farm machinery arm as part of a rescue in which Deutsche Bank, its biggest shareholder, will play the lead role (Colin Narbrough writes).

Despite heavy restructuring, the group incurred a DM60 million loss last year that it was unable to cover from reserves. Trading in the shares, suspended on Friday, is likely to resume today.

The package unveiled yesterday could

lead to Deutsche Bank taking a firmer grip at KHD. As well as the sale of the tractor and combine harvester division. Same, an Italian group, the rescue package foresees an immediate capital increase of an already authorised DM180 million, followed by a 2-to-1 writedown of corporate capital. About DM100 million of convertible profit-sharing certificates will also be issued.

Deutsche Bank, which owns 32 per cent of the company, will waive DM150

million of claims and guarantee the capital moves, but its contribution depends on other lines of credit being maintained and the approval of DM200 million in extra cash credit lines from banks.

KHD said it had fallen far short of its goal of breakeven last year, despite a 1 per cent plus rise in sales to DM3.28 billion and a rise of 4 per cent in new orders to DM4.26 billion. Operating profits were DM180 million short of target.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NINE MONTHS TO 31 DECEMBER 1994 (UNAUDITED)

Group revenue £926m up 6.1%
Pre-tax profit £328m up 12.3%
Earnings per share 23.9p up 13.3%
Passenger traffic 69.3m up 7.4%

BAA

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□ A week of decisions for central bankers □ Acronyms reawaken new issues market □ Variations on a single currency

Keeping interest alive

□ BOND market aficionados are arguing that Germany should be the clear beneficiary of this week's world interest rate lottery. The Bundesbank is only one of three central banks with monetary policy on its mind this week.

The Federal Open Market Committee meets today and tomorrow with every sign that the American economy carried considerable momentum from 1994's torrid growth into the first quarter and strong speculation of the seventh successive hike in the federal funds rate since the beginning of last year.

On Thursday, Kenneth Clarke and Eddie George meet to discuss rates with similar odds on a rate rise at that stage or next month. Signs of economic strength — although not across the whole economy — abound here too. But Thursday also sees the regular fortnightly meeting of the Bundesbank's policy-making council. Here, despite many column inches in brokers' economic circulars to their clients, there is little expectation of an immediate change in interest rates.

So why should that profit German bonds? The answer given in the market is that in Germany there is a measure of certainty and stability which will help bonds. But where are the credibility points eagerly sought

by the Fed and the Bank of England in raising interest rates at a time when inflationary pressures in both economies appear to be low?

It seems an ironic fact that, once the process of monetary tightening begins, the markets demand a great deal more from central bank policy makers. Debate rages as to whether the Fed or the Bank of England are ahead of the market or "behind the curve". The Bundesbank, which has been sitting on unchanged interest rates since May 1994, has none of this irritation.

Market expectations start to affect the policy decision itself. In Britain, the authorities may well want to wait until March to raise interest rates again. Mr Clarke told the great and good at the World Economic Forum in Davos that there were no signs of the economy overheating and suggested that high growth rates could be sustained this year without a burst of inflation.

But the markets may well be disappointed if there is no rate rise after Thursday's meeting, particularly if next week's Bank of England Inflation Report is

bearish about recent surprises on producer and retail prices. The Governor may argue — as he has argued with some effectiveness before — that to hold off would be to incur the mistrust of the markets.

The Fed is in a similar position. So engrained now is anticipation of at least a half-point rise in fed funds that making no move this week could push bond yields higher again and the FOMC will virtually be forced into a rate rise next time it meets.

The Bundesbank has the luxury of having done nothing and created no market expectations.

Initial offerings

□ IF THREE swallows do not make a summer, then three shy market debutantes hardly represent a return to the booming new issues market of a year ago. Furthermore, for the three swallows that tested their wings at the weekend, another fledgling fell out of the nest.

The three that show promise of



flight carry out such useful if unromantic tasks as the manufacture of acrylic shelves and reinforced bars and the distribution of plumbing supplies. ITS, SGI and Superframe will be worth a bare £70 million when they are floated, which hardly suggests a new issues market set alight by institutional buying fervour.

The fourth float, of BAS — why, seemingly, are anonymous initials back in favour? — is now RIP, the directors blaming unsympathetic markets even before yesterday's plunge of the FT-SE back below the 3,000 level. The group makes caddy toys and novelty items and managed to produce a pathfinder, and a fair bit of corporate hype, before the

float was pulled.

As KPMG Corporate Finance discovered late last year, the average fund manager spends less than three hours deciding whether to put money into a new issue. Most still have fresh in their minds high-profile disasters like Aeroflot's Hamble and Canadian Pizza which weigh heavily in such a short decision-making process. This reluctance combines with falling markets that are dragging back the exit multiples debutantes can hope for to barely double figures.

Little surprise, as Gardner Merchant found recently, that the trade sale can offer rather more respectable returns. In 1993, of the £17 billion spent on new equity, £11 billion went for rights issues and £6 billion on new issues. In 1994, total £17 billion again, the strength of the new issues market meant the proportions exactly reversed. This year, suggests NatWest Securities, a £14 billion total will be split 50-50. Big, well-capitalised debutantes like Albright & Wilson excepted, those companies that choose to go the market route will be those

that, for whatever reason, have no other choice. For investors, that could mean good prices — or much higher risk.

Bankers hatch phantom emu

□ DISCUSSION of economic and monetary union is becoming intense on the Continent while Britain quarrels outside the tent. Some of the arguments suit Britain. François Mitterrand and Edouard Balladur insist on a single currency in 1997, the earliest date, but others assume this is just a device to ensure that something happens in 1999. The real issue is what happens.

A European Commission standby plan for a two-stage conversion — with consumers switching their notes and coins after six months — has gained little support. Bankers know that the public would hate it. Just look at the ludicrous conversion factors to see why.

A series of central bankers, and even Alexandre Lamfalussy, head of the prototype EU central bank, have argued that national

currencies should continue to exist, possibly for years, as local variants of the single currency. Wim Duisenberg, the Dutch central banker, suggested yesterday that the transition might last a generation. As he notes, the key element in monetary union is not a single currency, but fixing exchange rates for all time. That would imply "a single monetary policy and a single central bank".

That is, however, what the sovereignty issue is all about. Even Kenneth Clarke will not contemplate rejoining an exchange-rate mechanism with narrow bands. Some member states might, however, accept a parallel single currency, say as cross-border legal tender, without fixing their currencies. Stupid, perhaps, given the interest rate penalty, but possible.

Funding trust

□ THE 1995 Directory of Grant Making Trusts, published yesterday by the Charities Aid Foundation, reveals that the Wellcome Trust dwarfs all others, giving a staggering £150 million last year, in the interests of medical research. Something to be proud of. Perhaps its governors could spare just a little to fund research into trends in business ethics and their influence on society.

BAA may invest £150m to ease congestion

By CARL MORRISSE

BAA, the airports group, is planning to invest £150 million in the expansion of its airport property portfolio in order to reduce congestion at the crowded Heathrow terminals. BAA plans to build and refurbish 1.5 million sq ft of offices and business parks, mainly at Heathrow, where the company has vacated offices at the centre of the airport to free up space for tenants.

BAA is refurbishing 33,000 sq ft of offices in the Central Terminal Area, formerly occupied by Heathrow Airports Limited (HAL), and will offer the space to airlines at about £23 per sq ft. HAL is now renting cheaper premises at the perimeter of the airport. The move coincides with the launch of BAA's property strategy, which includes a rent freeze and followed complaints about high rents at Heathrow terminals.

Strong growth in passenger traffic at BAA's airports helped to boost pre-tax profits 12.5 per cent to £228 million in the nine months to December. Sir John Egan, chief executive, said traffic growth benefited from worldwide economic recovery. He expected this to continue into next year.

Passenger numbers increased 7.4 per cent to 69.3 million in the nine months, with the biggest boost from short-haul charter flights, which saw growth of more than 10 per cent. North Atlantic traffic was only 3.7 per cent greater but passenger numbers on other long-haul routes grew 9.9 per cent. BAA is forecasting passenger growth of 7 per cent for the year to end March.

Shoppers boosted BAA's retailing income 9.8 per cent to £402 million although income was adversely affected by building work at Terminal 1, Heathrow, and at Gatwick. The effect on revenue is expected to continue this year, with redevelopment at Heathrow's Terminal 2.

Spending on buildings and infrastructure rose from £175 million to £207 million due to work on terminals and the construction of the Heathrow



Sir John Egan said traffic growth benefited from worldwide economic recovery

Express. BAA said that the partial collapse of the tunnel last year would have little financial impact on the group. Airport property income contributed £119 million, up 88 million. Balance sheet gearing at the end of December was just under 30 per cent.

Sir John said that BAA was

keeping a tight control on operating costs, which rose 4 per cent to £569 million, compared with a 6 per cent rise in turnover. Productivity per employee had improved 5.9 per cent, he added.

Cash flow was lower affected by the increased spending on terminals and work on the

Heathrow Express project. The company had a net cash outflow of £71 million in the nine months, after interest costs, tax and capital expenditure, compared with positive cash flow of £113 million in the previous year.

Tempos, page 28

ACT Group shares dive after profit warning

By PHILIP FANGALOS

SHARES in ACT Group crashed 8p to 74p after the computer software and services company accompanied its second profits warning in seven months with job cuts and the resignation of two senior directors. The fall in ACT's share price saw the group's market capitalisation shrink £33.4 million to £137.2 million.

ACT, which said in November that its UK operations had experienced difficult trading conditions, says there has been a further deterioration in trading at ACT Financial Systems, its UK financial software operation.

This will lead to a trading loss for the year, with redundancy and other one-off costs expected to amount to about £3 million. Group pre-tax profits for the year to March

31 will therefore be "significantly short of market expectations".

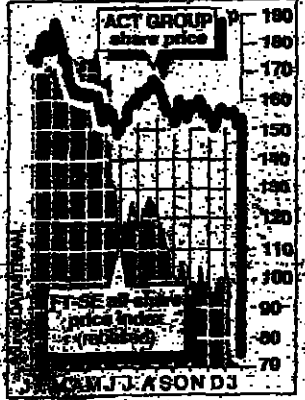
Mike Hart, group managing director, and Paul Newell, managing director of ACT International, have resigned from the board. Mr

Hart had an annual salary of £200,000 and was on a three-year contract, while Mr Newell received £150,000 a year and was on a two-year contract.

Kieran Nagle, managing director of ACT Banking Systems, becomes group chief executive. Lindsay Barry, a non-executive director, takes on the role of deputy chairman.

Brokers reduced their profit forecasts for the current year. Albert E. Sharp and Credit Lyonnais Laing, the company's joint brokers, have cut their forecasts from £26.5 million to £15.5 million (£28.5 million) and from £26.1 million to £16 million respectively.

BTW has cut its estimate to £14 million, while James Capel has downgraded to £18.3 million.



Bullough better after revamp

BULLOUGH, the industrial holding company, saw annual profits recover after significant restructuring, but is recommending an unchanged dividend as it strives to rebuild earnings cover.

In the year to October 31, pre-tax profits rose to £17.6 million, from £7.8 million the year before, when the company absorbed costs of £4.7 million against reorganisation. Earnings were 9.67p a share, up from 2.29p. The unchanged final dividend of 4.3p makes 6.06p for the year. The shares rose by 1p, to 154p.

The company, whose industrial interest span refrigeration, heating, engineering and office products, said that operating profits rose 33 per cent, to £18.5 million, from £13.9 million, before restructuring costs.

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Allied set to sell bakery

ALLIED DOMECO, the international drinks business, is in talks with a management buy-out syndicate of investors led by CVC Capital Partners, the venture capital arm of Citicorp, to sell its European bakery business, which employs 1,200 people across Europe. The business, which analysts value in excess of £50 million, is one of several companies put up for sale by Allied, which is concentrating on its spirits, wine and retailing operations. A deal with the Dutch-based Continental Bakeries could come within a matter of weeks.

Zettlers defiant as sales show damaging effect of lottery

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

EVIDENCE of the damage being inflicted on the football pools industry by the National Lottery emerged yesterday as Zettlers, the football pools promoter, admitted sales had slumped by more than 10 per cent since the lottery started in November.

Terry Yardley, Zettler's finance director, said: "It has been a bit worse than we expected. But then we are up against tough competition."

The double-digit decline in sales is similar to that announced by Littlewoods and Vernons, its two bigger rival

pools operators. It will further fuel fears that the lottery could be the death knell for the football pools. Some City analysts have estimated that the lottery could take as much as £700 million away from the £900 million pools industry.

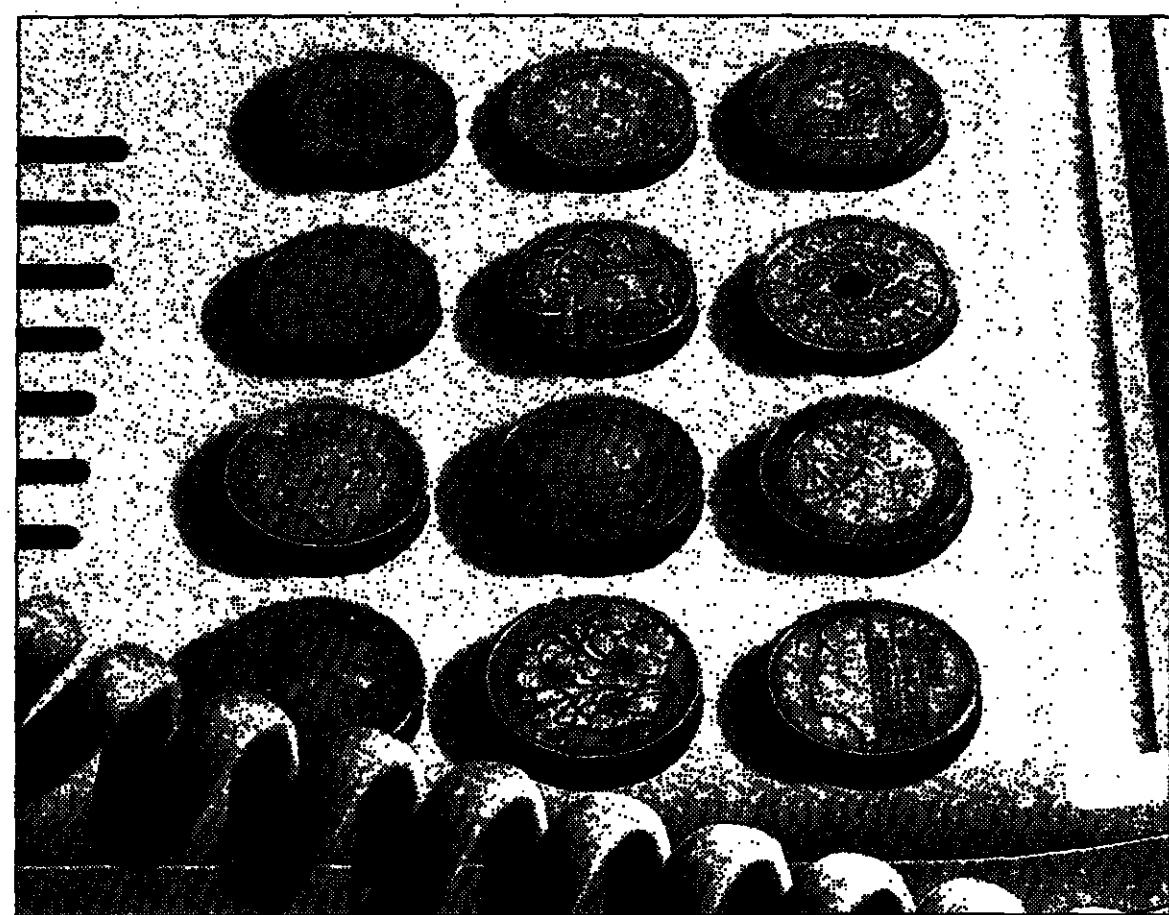
Mr Yardley, however, remained defiant: "We are not going to simply roll over and go belly up. We see a continuing place for the football pools and ourselves within that."

Zettlers reported a rise in pre-tax profits to £690,000 from £421,000 in the six

months to September 30. Mr Yardley said the gains seen in the first half had been reversed since the lottery started but the company believes profits for the full year will not be less than the £1.02 million achieved last year. It also expects the total dividend payout will not fall below the 8.5p paid last year.

The interim dividend is lifted to 5p from 4p and will be paid to shareholders on March 6.

Tempos, page 28
Camelot bandwagon, page 29



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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Kingfisher recovers in a downbeat market

IN a falling market, Kingfisher, the troubled retailer, stood out with a rise of 16p to 424p as City speculators decided that the shares have been oversold and are now looking good value. The Woolworth, Comet and B&Q DIY retailer has been given breathing space by City investors to put things right, or face a possible bid. This follows a profits warning earlier this month and last week's boardroom reshuffle, which resulted in the departure of two board members. Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy, who last week dropped down from chairman to chief executive, knows he has only so long to restore the group's fortunes or face the possibility of an unwanted bid.

Brokers on Friday were placing a break-up value on the shares of up to 600p, providing plenty of upside potential for the speculators. Hoare Govett, the stockbroker, was also said to be recommending Kingfisher to its clients. Already brokers are discussing the possibility of selling back Dany, the French electrical retailer owned by Kingfisher, to its management and the closure of all or part of the Comet chain in this country. Either way, the speculators expect some excitement in the months ahead.

Elsewhere, investors endured a lacklustre performance by the equity market as turnover slumped to a meagre 396 million shares. The start of the Federal Open Market Committee meeting later today in Washington is expected to signal a rise in US interest rates this week. It should also provide Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, with the excuse to push up domestic rates when they meet on Thursday.

As a result, investors were in no rush to open fresh positions, leaving prices to drift on lack of interest as the market dropped back below 3,000. The FT-SE 100 index drifted throughout much of the day, not helped by an opening markdown on Wall Street after the weekend break. The index finished 26.3 down at 2,995.9.

Commodities dropped 19p to 407p as it began a series of meetings with brokers. The message from the company was described as cautious, with continued concern about pressure on margins. Court-audited results also dropped 7p



Shares in Kingfisher, owner of B&Q and Comet, rose 16p

to 434p after one market-maker attempted to sell a parcel of shares at a discount to the ruling price.

Fisons, a takeover favourite, hardened 13p to 109p, with traders reporting heavy turnover in the shares on the traded options market.

Rank Organisation lost 8p to 370p ahead of a trading statement expected today in

The FT-SE 100 index fell below the important 3,000 resistance level once again, having climbed back above it only last week. The index tumbled 26.3 points to close at 2,995.9, ending near the day's lowest levels. Volume was only 396.4 million shares, a fraction of that required for City security houses to break even.

the US from Xerox Corporation. Earlier this month Rank agreed to sell 40 per cent of its holding in Rank Xerox to Xerox Corporation for more than £600 million.

Profit-taking left BAA Group, the independent airport operator, 5p cheaper at 460p after weighing in with third-quarter figures showing pre-tax profits 12 per cent ahead at £328 million and

million to £17.7 million. All four main divisions produced an improved performance and the group hinted that further acquisitions may be in the pipeline. The final dividend was maintained.

Further problems at its financial systems division have forced ACT Group to issue its second profits warning in four months. The group says pre-tax profits for the full year will

be significantly below market expectations of £25.8 million. The warning was followed up by the resignations of Mike Hart, group managing director, and Paul Newton, managing director of its AC1 International division. Kieran Nagle becomes chief executive. Brokers cut their pre-tax profit forecasts for the year to between £15 million and £16 million, leaving the share price 18p lower at 72p.

Shares of Norrish, the transport group, went into a nosedive with a fall of 27p to 51p after further reflection of last week's warning on the dividend. NFC, the rival transport group, slipped 2p to 163p despite reassurances by Sir Christopher Bland, the chairman, to shareholders at Saturday's annual meeting. He promised to reduce costs and make the group more efficient, but said margins remained under pressure.

Zetters, the football pools operator, has been hit hard by the introduction of the National Lottery, with sales down by 10 per cent since the start of November. The group is forecasting not less than £1.01 million for the year and a maintained dividend. The shares lost 3p to 125p.

News of clearer paper prices left Haynes Publishing 20p lower at 330p.

GILT-EDGED: Gilts traded in narrow limits for much of the day, with investors proving reluctant to open fresh positions ahead of this week's expected rise in interest rates both here and in the US. The only encouragement was provided by the latest US consumption figures, which indicated a slowdown in economic activity. But this spur to sentiment proved short-lived, leaving prices to close with small gains on the day.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt traded in limits of between £101 1/2 and £101 1/4, before closing at £101 1/4, or 101 1/4, at 33,000 contracts were completed. Movements among conventional futures were more restricted. Treasury 8 per cent 2013 firmed £1 1/8 to £1 1/4, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 hardened £4 to £4 1/4.

NEW YORK: Various factors, including fears of a slowdown in the economy, turned sentiment negative on Wall Street. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 23.21 points at 3,834.78.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	3,834.78 (-23.21)
S&P Composite	468.39 (-2.00)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	18,752.88 (+448.53)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	7,342.65 (+45.53)
Amsterdam:	
Euro Index	411.85 (+0.61)
Sydney:	
AO	1,856.7 (-5.9)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2,025.03 (+3.38)
Singapore:	
Strait Times	2,083.36 (+48.36)
Brussels:	
General	7,076.66 (+1.21)
Paris:	
CAC-40	1,913.43 (+0.70)
Zurich:	
SEA Gen	622.60 (-1.30)
London:	
FT 100	2,995.9 (-26.3)
FT 250	2,995.9 (-26.3)
FT-SE Mid 250	3,022.3 (-13.9)
FT-SE 100	2,995.9 (-26.3)
FT A-D Share	1,485.45 (-10.89)
FT Non Financials	1,611.71 (-11.37)
FT Gold Mines	1,841.4 (-4.4)
FT Real Estate	1,052.52 (-1.2)
FT Govt Secs	91.28 (-0.29)
Bargains	1,939.9
SEAQ Volume	796,448
US (midday)	US\$ (sterling)
US\$ (sterling)	1.4610 (-0.0015)
German Mark	2.4005 (-0.0008)
Exchange Index	759.0 (-0.1)
Bank of England official rate (April)	10.75%
CECU	1.3673
ESFR	1.0994
RPI	146.0 Dec (2.9%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT CHANGES

Asset Management Inv (100)	99
Caledonian Media Wts	5
Clydeport	156
First Hussar Fms (510)	570
Garr Micro Index	95
Garr Micro Wts	52
Lazard Bri Ida Wts	34
MCT S Cap (35)	34
MCT S Inc (35)	36
MICE Group (3)	34
Mitson Lyds IT (100)	82
Pentec Oil	95
TeleWest Comm (182)	172
Wellington Under (100)	102
Woodchester Uts	125

FUTURES

Dares Estates n/p (4)	22
Hewitt n/p (68)	22
Verity n/p (74)	22

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
API	389p (+10p)
Southend Prop	47p (+5p)
Trenchardwood	21p (+2p)
Kingfisher	424p (+16p)
Altronic Comm	189p (+20p)

FALLS:	
Kellogg Benson	609p (-11p)
Carlton Comm	889p (-10p)
Haynes Pub	330p (-20p)
Steel Int	780p (-10p)
Micro Focus	835p (-7p)
Trinity Int	364p (-7p)
MAM	789p (-10p)
Gleco	610p (-7p)
Wellcome	981p (-17p)
Bernrose	370p (-4p)
Bowater	410p (-7p)
Grand Met	407p (-7p)
Cable Wireless	371p (-4p)
Courtauld Text	424p (-7p)
Eurotunnel Uts	286p (-4p)
ACT Group	74p (-18p)

Closing Prices Page 31

High street to heaven

MOST high street retailers would be green with envy at BAA's sales growth figures, which almost reached double-digit growth rates in the nine-month period. They would be less impressed, however, with spend per head, which runs in the £5 to £6 bracket. While airlines adore those go-getting executives who fly in on the "red-eye" from New York, their landlord, BAA, prefers a less single-minded passenger who has time to browse in terminal shops.

In BAA's dreamworld, all airlines would exclusively carry female tourists from Tokyo, but while traffic figures move inexorably upwards, the mix can change.

BAA's traffic forecasts are designed to reassure, starting from a low base level of 4 per cent long-term. Recent growth has pushed the figure much higher. Such growth seems to

more than justify BAA's plans for a fifth terminal, but there must be a concern that strong traffic growth could slow in a future economic downturn just as the company racks up spending on Terminal 5, putting pressure on cash flow.

BAA's long-term puzzle is how to get the mix right between the needs of airlines and its own desire for retail revenues. While the former want nothing more than an efficient and inexpensive gate to the planes, BAA sees shopping as a more profitable activity. To preserve and expand the business, BAA is investing more in its airline tenants, but the question remains as to how far retailing can be pushed. Some of BAA's most affluent customers — the "red-eyes" — spend nothing in the airport. That dilemma still needs to be addressed.

Bullough

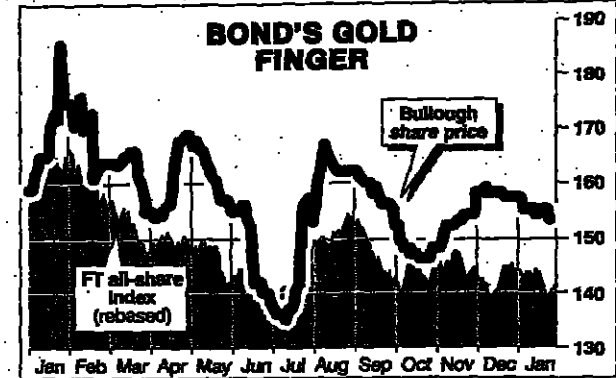
ONLY a year into the job as Bullough's chief executive, Gordon Bond already has some impressive numbers to show for all his work. Three of the group's divisions are now making respectable profits, with heating generating a 15 per cent operating margin. Only the ill-fated office furniture business remains a lame duck, although even here, the group managed to increase profits by £769,000, in spite of a £2 million fall in turnover.

Mr Bond has blown through the organisation vigorously, replacing half the operating directors and acquiring the heating division's main competitor to give it a dominant share of its industrial and commercial markets. However, the group needs further restructuring. The engineering division is a pot-pourri of

businesses, some smelling sweeter than others. Some of the less attractive parts, such as North Sea pipeline equipment, may be sold.

Office furniture remains the oddest piece of the group's portfolio, but Bullough needs to improve its performance before it is in any state to be sold. As a pure engineering and industrial

group, the company would have more to recommend it, and, with gearing of only 22 per cent, it has scope for further acquisitions. Profits of £22.5 million are possible this year, putting the shares on an undemanding earnings multiple of 12. Shareholders may even see a modest rise in the dividend this year, the first since 1989.



Amec

AMEC is shouting from the top of a tower crane about its part in the winning contract for the terminal at Hong Kong's new airport. By any standards, it is a big piece of business and the likely prospect of Amec's Watson Steel subsidiary securing the structural steel contract could add £50 million to Amec's £160 million share of the Chek Lap Kok contract.

That should provide a useful boost to liquidity for Amec in future years, in the form of advance payments, but only the wilfully optimistic expect a big profits kick from the Hong Kong deal. Amec admits that the consortium, which includes Balfour Beatty and Kumagai Gumi, the German group Hochtief, which can rely on a thriving home market to support international ambitions.

British contractors have been beating down doors in Asia to secure business in a market glowing with health, compared with the UK, and

Amec insists that terms are a lot better than back home. That suggests only that Amec and Balfour Beatty will earn more than nothing. In construction, the show is never over until the lawyers stop singing. Assuming no hiccup on the lines of Amec's Tripartite contract, on which negotiations continue, with Agpa, the company should make money after the usual contract variations.

Britain's construction sector badly needs consolidation, and the international market offers no easy escape from the business famine back home. Overseas, UK contractors face heavyweights such as Kumagai Gumi and the German group Hochtief, which can rely on a thriving home market to support international ambitions.

The company is further disadvantaged by being the smallest of the pools companies, behind Littlewoods and Vernons. Some observers predict that the pools market may eventually contract to just £200 million, from its present £900 million. If so, a betting man would favour the prospects of the larger players over the small.

Zetters

WINNERS in the National Lottery may choose to keep their identity secret, but there

is no hiding place for the big losers. Zetters, the pools operator, is just such a loser. The company had always said that the lottery was "unlikely to be good news", and it has been proved horribly right.

The inescapable difficulty for the group is that the lottery, as a low-stake, high-win game, appeals to exactly the same punters as the pools. Moreover, it is simpler to understand and the prizes are higher. Almost inevitably, Zetters' turnover has fallen by more than 10 per cent since the lottery started, and the trend is not abating.

The company is further disadvantaged by being the smallest of the pools companies, behind Littlewoods and Vernons. Some observers predict that the pools market may eventually contract to just £200 million, from its present £900 million. If so, a betting man would favour the prospects of the larger players over the small.

EDITED BY NEIL BENNETT

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE			
Mar	May	Jul	Oct
COCA	1000-1050	1050-1080	
May	1005-1025	1025-1045	
Jul	1015-1035	1035-1055	
Oct	1025-1045	1045-1065	
Dec	1035-1055	1055-1075	
Volume	4468		
ROBUSTA COFFEE (500)			
Jan	Mar	May	Jul
2005-2010	2010-2020	2020-2030	
2030-2040	2040-2050	2050-2060	
2060-2070	2070-2080	2080-2090	
2090-2100	2100-2110	2110-2120	
Volume	4382		
WHITE SUGAR (500)			
Jan	Mar	May	Jul
2005-2010	2010-2020	2020-2030	
2030-2040	2040-2050	2050-2060	
2060-2070	2070-2080	2080-2090	
2090-2100	2100-2110	2110-2120	
Volume	2596		
MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION			
Average forward prices at representative markets on January 27			
(kg liv)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
100	11.00	11.00	11.00
200	11.00	11.00	11.00
300	11.00	11.00	11.00
400	11.00	11.00	11.00
500	11.00	11.00	11.00
600	11.00	11.00	11.00
700	11.00	11.00	11.00
800	11.00	11.00	11.00
900	11.00	11.00	11.00
1000	11.00	11.00	11.00

LIFE OPTIONS

Series	Apr	Jul	Oct	Jan	Apr	Jul	Oct	Jan
AAA	420	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
AA	410	410	410	410	410	410	410	410
A	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400
BBB	390	390	390	390	390	390	390	390
BBB+	380	380	380	380	380	380	380	380
BBB-	370	370	370	370	370	370	370	370
BBB+	360	360	360	360	360	360	360	360
BBB-	350	350	350	350	350	350	350	350
BBB+	340	340	340	340	340	340	340	340
BBB-	330	330	330	330	330	330	330	330
BBB+	320	320	320	320	320	320	320	320
BBB-	310	310	310	310	310	310	310	310
BBB+	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
BBB-	290	290	290	290	290	290	290	290
BBB+	280	280	280	280	280	280	280	280
BBB-	270	270	270	270	270	270	270	270
BBB+	260	260	260	260	260	260	260	260
BBB-	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250
BBB+	240	240	240	240	240	240	240	240
BBB-	230	230	230	230	230	230	230	230
BBB+	220	220	220	220	220	220	220	220
BBB-	210	210	210	210	210	210	210	210
BBB+	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200
BBB-	190	190	190	190	190	190	190	190
BBB+	180	180	180	180	180	180	180	180
BBB-	170	170	170	170	170	170	170	170
BBB+	160	160	160	160	160	160	160	160
BBB-	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150
BBB+	140	140	140	140	140	140	140	140
BBB-	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130
BBB+	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
BBB-	110	110	110	110	110	110	110	110
BBB+	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
BBB-	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
BBB+	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
BBB-	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70
BBB+	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
BBB-	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
BBB+	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40
BBB-	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
BBB+	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
BBB-	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
BBB+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURE

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100	Mar 95 ~	3000.0	3020.0	2980.0	2991.0	943
Previous open interest: 64342	Jun 95 ~				30005.0	0
FT-SE 250	Mar 95 ~				3300.0	0
Previous open interest: 3944	Jun 95 ~					
Three Month Sterling	Mar 95 ~	92.86	92.90	92.83	92.88	18773
Previous open interest: 42570	Jun 95 ~	92.19	92.28	92.17	92.25	2562
	Sep 95 ~	91.73	91.83	91.70	91.81	14549
Three Mth Eurodollar	Mar 95 ~	92.36	92.37	92.36	92.42	32
Previous open interest: 514	Jun 95 ~					
Three Mth Euro DM	Mar 95 ~	94.77	94.78	94.73	94.76	17908
Previous open interest: 72316	Jun 95 ~	94.39	94.40	94.35	94.44	2765
Long Gilt	Mar 95 ~	101.27	101.31	101.17	101.24	33331
Previous open interest: 97330	Jun 95 ~	101.22	101.31	101.22	101.30	305
Japanese Govmt Bond	Mar 95 ~	106.48	106.59	106.45	106.59	1686
	Jun 95 ~	107.79	107.82	107.59	107.81	321
German Gov Bd Bond	Mar 95 ~	90.71	90.78	90.24	90.31	10020
Previous open interest: 32873	Jun 95 ~	91.09	91.08	90.74	91.04	21
Three month ECU	Mar 95 ~	93.52	93.53	93.46	93.48	857
Previous open interest: 22205	Jun 95 ~	93.02	93.02	92.90	92.99	817
Euro Swiss Franc	Mar 95 ~	95.82	95.82	95.78	95.81	149

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Handful of Welsh Gold

IF YOU ever dreamed of (legally) picking up a handful of gold, then trip along to Dolgellau, Wales, pay £9.50 — or £2 less if you are a pensioner — and, with luck, gold is there for the taking. Welsh Gold, whose public offer to subscribe for three million shares at 50p each opens today is offering a tourist tour of its Gwynfynydd gold mine, during which DIY addicts are lured up in hard hat, lamp and boots, and left to bash rocks like real miners. Tourists are unlikely to gather enough gold to rival the one-kilogram bar that former owner Sir Mark Weinberg gave to The Queen in 1986 — the Palace traditionally fashions rings for Royal weddings using Welsh gold. However, Roland Phelps, the current owner, assures me visitors can keep whatever gold they find, adding that one visitor recently gathered in £200 worth of yellow metal. Tourist numbers are expected to swell from 20,000 to 35,000, which should be useful traffic through the company's high margin retail shop. Add in the premium over the world price which gold of Welsh origin commands, and Welsh Gold should be a golden cash cow. Net profits are projected at £805,000, equivalent to a prospective p/e of seven at the offer price, and an initial dividend of 2.4p, rising to 4p a share, is likely. Why bother trekking to Africa?



Tapping a rich vein

Toy bash

IT IS adults only at the Toy Fair at Olympia. However, one of the few really youthful persons there was Chris Wilkins, 15, a magician demonstrating magic games at Sir Andrew Lloyd-Webber's Really Useful Company stand. My colleague Victoria McKee, a writer on the toy industry and member of the National Toy Council, has managed to bring her offspring on several occasions as vital assistants-testers-photographic models and spotters of new trends. This year, her well-behaved ten and 13-year-olds were nearly hustled out on several occasions by security guards despite being properly authorised. It seems exhibitors worry that their multimillion pound orders might be jeopardised should some shrewd kid express an unfavourable comment, or pull apart a prototype, just as a deal was being clinched.

Pork chopped

RICHARD NEEDHAM, the Trade Minister, yesterday heard actress Maureen Lipman tell guests at the Chinese New Year lunch hosted by the London Export Group and the 48 Group Club, how you know when a politician is telling the truth. "When he scratches his head, his chin and then his nose. But when he opens his mouth..." she added. Needham later rose to his feet, scratched his head, nose and chin and said: "Thank you Miss Piggy" — polite enough considering that the Year of the Pig was dawning.

COLIN CAMPBELL

Mark these words, life will become more of a lottery

Camelot has so far just scratched the surface with its big weekly draws

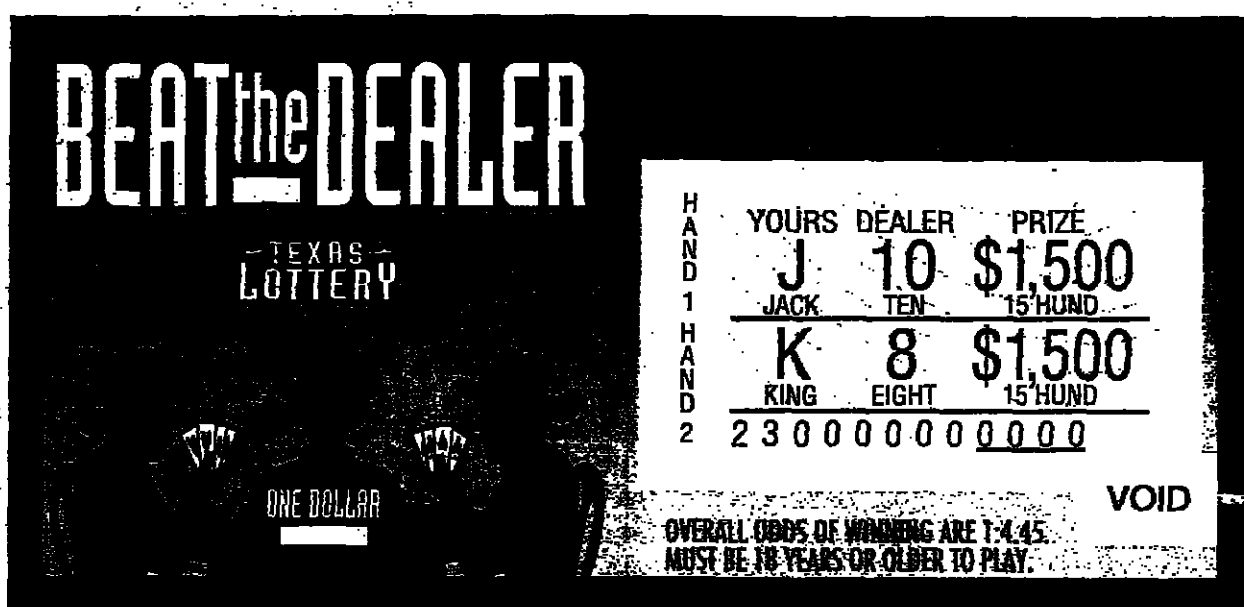
Anyone who thought the National Lottery was going to slip quietly into the fabric of British life will have to think again. Eleven weeks on from the glittering inaugural draw, controversy continues to rage. Camelot privately admits to being staggered by the amount of money raised since tickets went on sale in mid-November — some £50,000 in the first 12 minutes alone. Sales to December 31 were about 15 per cent ahead of projections. Early predictions proved embarrassingly conservative. Six months ago, Camelot was talking of a weekly jackpot of £3 million, and explained the need to cap unclaimed jackpots after three consecutive draws to prevent "excessive" levels of payout. Already, jackpots of £7 million a week have become commonplace, and Camelot is starting to talk about the possibility of a £40 million superprize. Statistically, a full rollover should take place once every two years. Early losers include the football pools companies, which have been forced to consider radical changes in an attempt to keep pace. Vernon announced last week that it was making a sixth of its workforce redundant in the face of a 15 per cent fall in revenue. Zetters said yesterday that turnover was down more than 10 per cent on last year. The company announced major changes to its coupon and said an intensive cost reduction programme was under way. The Government has responded by lifting the ban on pools firms advertising on TV and radio.

There are more fireworks to come. This spring, unsuspecting punters will be treated to Lottery Phase Two: the launch of dozens of colourful instant-win games — or scratch cards — promising top prizes of £25,000 or more. The first batch is likely to go on sale in March or April, rounding off a process that began in earnest last July, when Camelot Group was awarded the licence to set up and run Britain's first national lottery since 1826.

The launch will lack the hype of November's debut, but nobody should doubt its importance to Camelot's masterplan. Instant games are expected to make up 20-30 per cent of total lottery sales — not to be succeeded at, when one is talking of expected peak turnover of £5.5 billion a year.

About 12,000 newsagents and corner shops will be equipped to sell instant games in addition to the mainstream lottery sales network of 10,000 outlets at launch, rising to 27,000 by the end of 1996.

Scratch cards are immensely popular in America, where shoppers invariably buy one or two games along with the groceries. People give them as presents at Christmas, or enclose a couple with birthday cards as a treat. The promise of an instant prize is tantalising. Why wait until



Instant gratification: scratch games start this spring and may bring in 20-30 per cent of annual lottery turnover

Saturday, when a fistful of cash beckons?

Instant games typically make up 40 per cent of total lottery turnover worldwide. Camelot expects revenue to be lower in the UK, mainly because they lack novelty value. We already have petrol station games and charity scratch cards.

Games will take a variety of themes — Christmas, Easter and football, card games, and noughts and crosses. Some will have thousands of smaller prizes, perhaps £10, and a top prize capped at £10,000. Others will have fewer prizes but a higher jackpot. The odds of winning an instant prize will be between one-in-four and one-in-seven, compared with one-in-54 for the televised on-line game. Five tickets in a batch of 50 would be likely to produce a prize.

For some colourful examples of what lies ahead, one need look no further than the rolling plains of Texas, where Camelot's technical partner, GTECH, holds sway. Money-hungry wranglers can try their luck at Moohah Mania, which features a cow clad in boots and sunglasses. Scratch away the surface, match three identical prize amounts and you win the featured sum — up to £20,000 in this case.

Other instant games include Cactus Cash, Lone Star Millions, Armadillo Dollars, and

Grand Slam. Instant Million pays out just that, \$1 million, if you match two symbols. Win for Life will win you \$1,000 a week for life if you match the word "life" three times. A punt typically costs \$1 or \$2.

Camelot's instant game prizes will be considerably lower to avoid clashing with the weekly on-line game. Instant games are likely to be produced in batches of 40 million or more. Each batch will have a handful of big prizes and a range of smaller ones. When all tickets in the batch have been sold, a fresh game will be introduced. Tickets will be bar-coded and numbered to guard against false claims.

The weekly lottery itself has brought no shortage of statistics. For example, about 20 per cent of combinations are not played at all.

About 60 per cent of sales take place on Friday and Saturday, mirroring trends overseas. Ticket sales hit £4 million an hour on the day of the recent £17 million superdraw — a take of more than £66,000 per minute.

One modest outlet, a newsagent in East Sheen, southwest London, was selling 4,000 tickets an hour at peak. Britain's most successful lottery outlet has been identified as the Lombard Street post office in the City of London. The outlet is open only 8am-6pm Monday to Friday, but

the value of ticket sales has been swelled by the large number of syndicates from City finance houses taking part. It is common to find 400-strong syndicates in the City each staking £5 a head.

Overall ticket sales are averaging £55 million a week. Divided among the current network of 12,000 outlets, this gives an average take per retailer of just under £4,600 a week. Five per cent of this is paid in commission to the retailer — an average of £230 per week.

Camelot expects a typical retail outlet to earn about £6,000-£7,000 a year in commission on ticket sales. This clashes sharply with the findings of Verdict, a retail analysis firm, which has twice produced misleading reports on the lottery's progress.

Verdict claimed retailers could expect to average up to £23,000 in extra commission per year, but it got its sums wrong. It divided projected annual sales among 10,000 retail outlets, forgetting that the network was due to quadruple in size. Verdict made a similar mistake in claiming that weekly sales were falling short by £35 million.

Camelot is sensitive to criticism of the weekly televised show hosted by Gordon Kennedy and Anthea Turner. It

Calling from the rooftops to tap into a new market

Ionica pins its hopes on novel phone technology, writes Eric Reguly

Of the dozens of telecommunications companies formed since 1991, when the Government dismantled the BT-Mercury duopoly, one stands out for its unusual strategy. Ionica, pinning its future on unfamiliar technology, will use radio signals to connect phone customers.

Transmitters will zap the digital signals to an octagonal antenna, 12 inches across, mounted on the roof of a house. Nothing else will change. The house does not have to be rewired to accommodate the new-fangled system and customers can go on using their old phones, faxes and answering machines.

So what is the advantage? Cost, said Nigel Playford, Ionica's managing director. Unlike BT, Ionica will not have to maintain a network of underground or overhead copper wires; lower infrastructure charges will mean lower charges to customers. "There will be substantial savings across the board," he said.

Mr Playford would not give details about the expected savings. The precise tariffs, in fact, are unknown because the system is still being tested, in East Anglia.

A fortnight ago, the company announced that it had received its billing software, developed by General Technology, a local company, allowing it to start commercial service this year. "We have just about everything we need now," Mr Playford said.

Ionica, which is based in Cambridge, is the only telecoms operator to rely on radio signals to develop a fixed, national phone network.

It also stands out because it is attacking the residential market, which is dominated by BT. Almost all other newcomers are going after business or mobile phone customers. Ionica's goal is to have one million customers within five years, or about 5 per cent of the market.

BT does not consider that Ionica is a threat. It does not think that many customers will go through the hassle of dumping BT because Ionica will pro-

vide essentially the same service. Mr Playford said that Ionica will offer innovative services, but he would not give details. The option of being able to use several separate phone lines is thought to be one feature in the works.

But BT makes its confident prediction without the benefit of knowing Ionica's prices. If they are only 5 per cent less, BT will probably not have much to worry about. If they are 20 per cent lower, Ionica could be a contender.

"I don't think the advantages are so overwhelming that it'll be a runaway success unless it's a lot cheaper," said one analyst.

Ionica, created in 1991, has a lot of believers. Many of its 300 shareholders are well known, including Yorkshire Electricity, Northern Electric, Robert Fleming Investment Trust and Telecom Finland, which is rolling out its own radio-telephony system. Management owns about 25 per cent. Northern Telecom is its equipment supplier.

The shareholders have pumped £50 million into Ionica. The company needs more, and discussions are being held with existing and potential shareholders. A flotation could happen within the year, and SG Warburg has been tapped to study the idea. However, analysts say that a flotation would have a better chance once Ionica secures a solid customer base.

Convinced of the potential of its technology, Ionica is not limiting itself to Britain. It recently started Ionica International, a subsidiary that will make its radio-telephony expertise available overseas. Developing countries are the most likely clients.

Countries such as China have very few terrestrial phone lines and may not be able to build a BT-style network.

Radio telephony, if it proves itself in Britain, will be seen as one alternative to the expense of digging thousands of miles of trenches for cable. Mexico has already licensed the technology.

"The overseas potential is huge," Mr Playford said.

WARNING

SURETY & PERFORMANCE BONDS

GIO Australia Holdings Limited ACN 054 573 401, NRMA Insurance Limited ACN 000 016 722 and Reinsurance Australia Corporation Limited ACN 061 215 601 ("the Companies") have become aware that a number of Surety and Performance Bonds have been issued naming them as surety or reinsurer.

The Companies have also become aware that they have been named as Principals in what purports to be a Binding Authority Agreement dated 15 December 1993 in which Steele Smith Roberts & Lawson Insurance Management ("Steele Smith") of London, UK is named as Agent for the Companies.

General Disclaimer

The Companies are not party to the Binding Authority Agreement and have not at any time given any authority to Steele Smith to issue or arrange any insurance or reinsurance on their behalf.

Anyone who is seeking to enter into arrangements pursuant to this Agreement should cease immediately.

The Companies have referred these matters to the appropriate authorities.

The following entities have been named in such Bonds or in connection with the arrangement of such Bonds; it is not suggested that they have acted improperly:

- * Ferguson Financial Insurance Services of California, USA.
- * Frontier Administrators Inc of Scotsdale, Arizona, USA.
- * General Risk Management Limited of London, UK.
- * International Casualty & Surety Co Limited of Auckland, New Zealand, Scotsdale, Arizona, USA and Rosarito, Mexico.
- * Pan Oceanic Insurance Co of Edmon, Oklahoma, USA and Panama.

Any person who has or may have relied on any such authority or who has any relevant information should contact the undersigned.

GIO Australia Holdings Limited
J Gosper (Tel: (612) 228 1630, Fax: (612) 221 4633)

NRMA Insurance Limited
A Roydhouse (Tel: (612) 260 9323, Fax: (612) 260 8054)

Reinsurance Australia Corporation Limited
M Moyes (Tel: (612) 247 6565, Fax: (612) 252 1614)

Home income plan cases taking IOB longer to resolve

From the Insurance Ombudsman. Sir, A correspondent in this column (Mr R.T. Ballantine, January 21) feels disillusioned with the ability of the Insurance Ombudsman Bureau to carry out its obligations. His letter to you crossed with one to him from the IOB, telling him that his insurer has been asked by us to provide substantial interim payment to ease his situation. Final resolution of his case will see him compensated in accordance with the IOB/Laurie guidelines, which have been commended in your pages, and elsewhere for their comprehensiveness and fairness.

My Annual Report for 1994 is due for publication next month. It will confirm the IOB's average processing time during the year has been less than four months per case. Home income plan cases unfortunately take a great deal longer than that to resolve. That is a reflection of the particular complexity of these cases, and the IOB is not alone in experiencing this.

However, I must also acknowledge that, on occasions, the IOB has not met its own service standards when dealing with them. A specialised unit recently created in the IOB is addressing this problem for the future.

Shareholders' rights and Peps

From Mr Geoffrey Holden. Sir, You report (January 25) on ProShare's proposals to give nominee shareholders their usual rights. The proposals would have been unnecessary had the Stock Exchange done its job properly. Their new settlement rules could hardly have been better devised to

discourage individual ownership. Ways can be found to ease the effect of the rules, but surely the exchange should be trying to encourage individual ownership rather than the contrary.

Pennington comments in the same issue that nominee ownership is inevitable for Peps. It is not. It is currently a legal requirement, but if the object of Peps was to encourage individuals to invest in

stocks and shares, why should not those people be allowed to declare formally to the Revenue which of their holdings they wish to be Peps. The same rules could then apply. But City institutions would lose a sizeable income.

Yours faithfully, GEOFFREY HOLDEN, Crispins, East End, North Leigh, Witney, Oxon.

Double fazing the glazing man

From Mr P.B. Soul. Sir, With cold calls by telephone on the increase, at least they are becoming easier to recognise early and nip in the bud. Recently I succeeded in asking a caller: "Can I sell you double glazing?" almost before he had finished giving his name. It was a pleasure to hear him splutter: "Actually I was hoping to sell you double glazing," and this was followed by a pause long enough for me to decline the offer politely and put the phone down. As an alternative measure, would BT be willing to place an asterisk against directory entries on request, to indicate "No cold callers"? And would it work?

Yours faithfully, PETER SOUL, 51 Lakeside, Earley, Reading, Berks.

Letters to The Times Business and Finance section can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5112.

THE RESULTS

SEC	Day	Yld	Vol	SEC	Day	Yld	Vol
Equity Income	85.54	73.59	+0.12	3.06	Equity Income	85.54	73.59
Equity Income	177.70	153.30	+0.20	2.92	Equity Income	177.70	153.30
Equity Income	335.50	299.50	+0.10	3.00	Equity Income	335.50	299.50
Equity Income	500.00	450.00	+0.10	3.00	Equity Income	500.00	450.00
Equity Income	665.00	600.00	+0.10	3.00	Equity Income	665.00	600.00
Equity Income	830.00	750.00	+0.10	3.00	Equity Income	830.00	750.00
Equity Income	995.00	900.00	+0.10	3.00	Equity Income	995.00	900.00
Equity Income	1160.00	1050.00	+0.10	3.00	Equity Income	1160.00	1050.00
Equity Income	1325.00	1200.00	+0.10	3.00	Equity Income	1325.00	1200.00
Equity Income	1490.00	1350.00	+0.10	3.00	Equity Income	1490.00	1350.00
Equity Income	1655.00	1500.00	+0.10	3.00	Equity Income	1655.00	1500.00
Equity Income	1820.00	1650.00	+0.10	3.00	Equity Income	1820.00	1650.00
Equity Income	1985.00	1800.00	+0.10	3.00	Equity Income	1985.00	1800.00
Equity Income	2150.00	1950.00	+0.10	3.00	Equity Income	2150.00	1950.00
Equity Income	2315.00	2100.00	+0.10	3.00	Equity Income	2315.00	2100.00
Equity Income	2480.00	2250.00	+0.10	3.00	Equity Income	2480.00	2250.00
Equity Income	2645.00	2400.00	+0.10	3.00	Equity Income	2645.00	2400.00
Equity Income	2810.00	2550.00	+0.10	3.00	Equity Income	2810.00	2550.00
Equity Income	2975.00	2700.00	+0.10	3.00	Equity Income	2975.00	2700.00
Equity Income	3140.00	2850.00	+0.10	3.00	Equity Income	3140.00	2850.00
Equity Income	3305.00	3000.00	+0.10	3.00	Equity Income	3305.00	3000.00
Equity Income	3470.00	3150.00	+0.10	3.00	Equity Income	3470.00	3150.00
Equity Income	3635.00	3300.00	+0.10	3.00	Equity Income	3635.00	3300.00
Equity Income	3800.00	3450.00	+0.10	3.00	Equity Income	3800.00	3450.00
Equity Income	3965.00	3600.00	+0.10	3.00	Equity Income	3965.00	3600.00
Equity Income	4130.00	3750.00	+0.10	3.00	Equity Income	4130.00	3750.00
Equity Income	4295.00	3900.00	+0.10	3.00	Equity Income	4295.00	3900.00
Equity Income	4460.00	4050.00	+0.10	3.00	Equity Income	4460.00	4050.00
Equity Income	4625.00	4200.00	+0.10	3.00	Equity Income	4625.00	4200.00
Equity Income	4790.00	4350.00	+0.10	3.00	Equity Income	4790.00	4350.00
Equity Income	4955.00	4500.00	+0.10	3.00	Equity Income	4955.00	4500.00
Equity Income	5120.00	4650.00	+0.10	3.00	Equity Income	5120.00	4650.00
Equity Income	5285.00	4800.00	+0.10	3.00	Equity Income	5285.00	4800.00
Equity Income	5450.00	4950.00	+0.10	3.00	Equity Income	5450.00	4950.00
Equity Income	5615.00	5100.00	+0.10	3.00	Equity Income	5615.00	5100.00
Equity Income	5780.00	5250.00	+0.10	3.00	Equity Income	5780.00	5250.00
Equity Income	5945.00	5400.00	+0.10	3.00	Equity Income	5945.00	5400.00
Equity Income	6110.00	5550.00	+0.10	3.00	Equity Income	6110.00	5550.00
Equity Income	6275.00	5700.00	+0.10	3.00	Equity Income	6275.00	5700.00
Equity Income	6440.00	5850.00	+0.10	3.00	Equity Income	6440.00	5850.00
Equity Income	6605.00	6000.00	+0.10	3.00	Equity Income	6605.00	6000.00
Equity Income	6770.00	6150.00	+0.10	3.00	Equity Income	6770.00	6150.00
Equity Income	6935.00	6300.00	+0.10	3.00	Equity Income	6935.00	6300.00
Equity Income	7100.00	6450.00	+0.10	3.00	Equity Income	7100.00	6450.00
Equity Income	7265.00	6600.00	+0.10	3.00	Equity Income	7265.00	6600.00
Equity Income	7430.00	6750.00	+0.10	3.00	Equity Income	7430.00	6750.00

Double-digit losses

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS	
Barclays Bank	125.00
Bank of Scotland	110.00
Bank of Ireland	105.00
Bank of England	115.00
Bank of Wales	100.00
Bank of Cyprus	105.00
Bank of Greece	110.00
Bank of Spain	115.00
Bank of Portugal	120.00
Bank of France	125.00
Bank of Italy	130.00
Bank of Germany	135.00
Bank of Netherlands	140.00
Bank of Belgium	145.00
Bank of Luxembourg	150.00
Bank of Switzerland	155.00
Bank of Austria	160.00
Bank of Czech Republic	165.00
Bank of Slovakia	170.00
Bank of Hungary	175.00
Bank of Poland	180.00
Bank of Russia	185.00
Bank of Ukraine	190.00
Bank of Belarus	195.00
Bank of Kazakhstan	200.00
Bank of Kyrgyzstan	205.00
Bank of Tajikistan	210.00
Bank of Turkmenistan	215.00
Bank of Uzbekistan	220.00
Bank of Azerbaijan	225.00
Bank of Armenia	230.00
Bank of Georgia	235.00
Bank of Azerbaijan	240.00
Bank of Armenia	245.00
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Bank of Azerbaijan	255.00
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Bank of Armenia	950.00
Bank of Georgia	955.00
Bank of Azerbaijan	960.00
Bank of Armenia	965.00
Bank of Georgia	970.00
Bank of Azerbaijan	975.00
Bank of Armenia	980.00
Bank of Georgia	985.00
Bank of Azerbaijan	990.00
Bank of Armenia	995.00
Bank of Georgia	1000.00

DISTRIBUTORS	
British Airways	125.00
British Petroleum	110.00
British Telecom	105.00
British Virgin Islands	115.00
British Virgin Islands	100.00
British Virgin Islands	105.00
British Virgin Islands	110.00
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British Virgin Islands	120.00
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British Virgin Islands	965.00
British Virgin Islands	970.00
British Virgin Islands	975.00
British Virgin Islands	980.00
British Virgin Islands	985.00
British Virgin Islands	990.00
British Virgin Islands	995.00
British Virgin Islands	1000.00

Who needs the Jermyn Street Sales?

Liquidation stock of Jermyn Street quality shirts from £19.95

Recently, a UK mail-order supplier of Jermyn Street gentlemen's shirts went into liquidation. As their principal supplier we were left with limited stocks of superb Egyptian twofold cotton poplin cloth, which we have made into a range of outstanding shirts, at well below Jermyn Street sale prices. Avoid the rush, send for your free full colour catalogue now.

ORDER YOUR FREE CATALOGUE NOW. CALL FREE ON

0800 319 319

HOUSEHOLD GOODS		INSURANCE	
100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
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Helping firms to cash in on an EC research partnership

By BRIAN COLLETT

HOW many businesses are claiming European money from which they could benefit?

An awareness day is being held in the summer to tell small and medium-sized technology-based businesses about the European Community's Craft programme and other funding schemes.

The technology unit of National Westminster Bank, which handles financing of enterprises using modern technology, decided to organise the day after discovering that a surprising number of companies do not know about the European cash that is available.

"In fact," said Peter Ives, deputy head of the technology unit, "part of our success has been to show businesses that the money is there."

Craft, the main subject of the awareness day, stands for Co-operative Research Action for Technology. Under the programme, the European Commission pays half the cost of an approved research and development technology project, provided that at least four businesses from two or more European Community member countries are working on it together.

In one recent Craft initiative several companies collaborated to come up with a new type of teacup for industrial boots. Existing

teacups were of a uniform size for all sizes of boot. So the companies got together with Craft funding to perfect a material for a teacup that would fit boots of all sizes more easily.

Craft awareness day will be June 15. The NatWest technology unit is negotiating with AEA Technology to put on the course at its site at Culham, near Abingdon, Oxfordshire. More information is available on 01754 2861.

Griffin Factors, a Midland Bank subsidiary, has produced a free guide to help small businesses to apply for grants. The booklet is available free on 0800 343435.



"Oh yes, I have a partner - it's called desperation"

Woman to woman advice

By JESSICA GORST-WILLIAMS

FIONA PRICE lacked confidence in working with figures, but that did not stop her from setting up her all-women financial advisers' business, Fiona Price & Partners. She says: "Women often lack confidence in financial matters, even though they usually know as much as men who put across that they know more."

She recalls: "My father is an entrepreneur and I always wanted to be my own boss." So when she saw a job advertisement offering independence and promotion she applied. It turned out to be in personal finance. Confronting figures overcame her fear of them and within two years she was branch manager. Then the firm sold out to an insurance company and she decided to set up independently.

A business venture with a partner lasted two years. Then in 1988 she spotted a niche for women's financial advice and decided to set up entirely on her own.

She approached five banks with very detailed business plans and eventually found a manager who gave her an overdraft facility of £10,000. She rented two converted practice rooms over the Wigmore Hall in central London and took on two staff: an administrator and an adviser who would also do technical research, enabling Ms Price to concentrate on building up the business.

During the first year turnover was £100,000. Then the firm moved to Savile Row on an 18-month non-



Fiona Price: helping women who may lack confidence in handling their financial affairs

renewable lease - central London offices that they could afford. By then there were two administrators and four advisers. Turnover in that second year, 1989-90, was nearly £200,000.

In 1990 they moved again, to their present offices in Covent Garden. "Everything was done on the cheap and my brothers painted the four floors from top to bottom in two weeks." Even so, the move cost £18,000 including decorations

and furniture. Outgoings on rent and rates quadrupled.

But Ms Price had a gut feeling that the business was right and that the central location justified the high costs. Turnover to March 1991 grew to just £260,000.

Now the annual turnover has topped £500,000. The firm has a staff of 14 and it advises more than 1,200 business and professional women. A typical client would be a woman between 25 and 50 in

London or the Home Counties earning between £25,000 and £50,000 a year. Many are self-employed. Ninety per cent of clients are women, and there are some corporate clients.

Fiona Price says: "Where a client only wants advice, to be impartial we just charge a fee. It was almost unheard of to charge for advice at the time when I set it up. Nearly all financial advisers simply worked on commission."

Larger awards are to be made available under the SMART scheme run by the Department of Trade and Industry to encourage small businesses to develop new products and processes. The DTI will fund up to £80 awards of £45,000 each and winners will be able to apply for a further £150,000 under the department's SPUR scheme to develop products up to the prototype stage. Applications must be submitted by April 7. Forms are available from Business Link organisations, DTI regional offices, the Welsh and Scottish Offices and the Department of Economic Development in Northern Ireland. Inquiries: 0171-215 5000.

Barclays Bank has produced a series of 140 free fact sheets for small businesses. Subjects include negotiating and selling skills, delegating responsibility and developing the business.

Small retailers are suffering a worrying fall in sales, according to Richard Brown, deputy director general of the British Chambers of Commerce. He says the improvement in retail sales generally comes from fierce discounting and aggressive selling. Stores offering free credit are effectively discounting by more than 24 per cent.

Staffordshire Training and Enterprise Council has launched a range of business support programmes to overcome a potential skill shortage. Information: Teresa Harris on 01782 207233.

EDITED BY DEREK HARRIS

BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

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OPERA page 34

Kiri Te Kanawa turns in a dazzling performance as a substitute in Simon Boccanegra at the Met.

ARTS

THEATRE page 35

Michael Sheen is a Jimmy Porter for the Nineties in a fine revival of John Osborne's play



GALLERIES: Oxford's tribute to Donald Judd; and the best contemporary art in New York this spring

Dedicated to spare essentials

Richard Cork enters the austere world of the late Donald Judd, whose sculpture is now being celebrated by Moma in Oxford

A quarter of a century has passed since Britain last staged a substantial Donald Judd exhibition. That show, among the first I reviewed as a critic, was hugely impressive. The barn-like Whitechapel Art Gallery proved an ideal setting. Judd's stripped, refined, sturdy work seemed to arrive at the fundamentals of sculpture and made most of his contemporaries look fussy and rhetorical. American Minimalism found its most uncompromising expression in Judd's four-square, resolutely matter-of-fact objects. He defined his own world of lean-cut, pared-down form in the early 1960s, and developed it with assurance over the next 30 years.

All too soon, this single-minded

career terminated with his death last year. So the big survey at Oxford's Museum of Modern Art might have been a melancholy occasion. Memorial shows sometimes trigger a backlash against those they are supposed to celebrate. I entered the Oxford exhibition with trepidation, wondering if the man who had survived in my memory would now be cut down to size.

I need not have worried. Although familiarity has made Judd's art less challenging than it seemed in my youth, the organisers have not served up a predictable experience. On the contrary, they present a far more rounded view of his achievement than anything we have seen here before. The first downstairs room dispels the notion that Judd simply made monolithic sculpture on the most imposing scale imaginable. It is largely devoted to his furniture, where the principles of austere simplification are applied to the domestic modesty of tables, beds and chairs. Not that Judd made any concessions to comfort. Most of the chairs are as hard as the famously rigid Rietveld Red and blue armchair, a classic 1918 declaration of how furniture could be transformed by modernist abstraction. Compared with Rietveld's festive use of multicoloured wood, though, Judd's approach to materials seems restrained. As spartan as the objects in a Shaker house, his furniture seems to exemplify the most puritanical strain in the American temperament.

But the more I lingered over these pared-down forms, which correspond so precisely to the structural organisation of his sculpture, the less severe they became. Although they appeared minimal, Judd makes us aware of the different materials he has employed. The aluminium chair, made of grey baked enamel, turns out to be more industrial in feeling than the deep maroon shelving unit near by. This, in turn, looks impersonal when set against the warm brown wood of the chair alongside.

Sometimes, Judd's furniture looks like a pretext for a sculptor to indulge his fascination with putting forms through a series of permutations. One row of chairs aspires to the condition of music, deftly exploring variations on an austere theme. They resemble the subtly differing parts of a single work, whereas the dark blue bed in the middle of the gallery stands proud and alone. Low-slung, and short of all the familiar details which would have made its function easier to identify, it hovers in an intriguing state halfway between



The office of Clarence Judd, with desks and chairs by Donald Judd. Judd's furniture has an austere simplification that usually makes few concessions to comfort

furniture and sculpture. Judd seems to be asking himself where the dividing line between them really lies. Especially when he designed a wide wooden table with a top as open and expansive as a prairie. Confronted by its exhilarating sweep, still rigorously controlled but epic in mood as well, I felt ready for the impact of Judd's grandest sculpture upstairs.

All the same, nothing can quite prepare visitors for the encounter awaiting them there. One of the largest rooms is inhabited by a single, untitled work made in 1973. It sounds simple enough: seven identical units of Douglas fir plywood advance steadily along the right-hand wall, punctuating its whiteness with their box-like contours. But as we walk past them, their stateliness becomes overwhelming. Judd's fascination with architecture, documented by drawings elsewhere in the show, surely helped him to give such sculpture its prodigious force.

Moving up and down this room is like exploring the nave of a Cubist cathedral. Each unit is tall enough to offer shelter, but no one could mistake them for functional structures. They simply sit there, charging the space around them with the sense of finality which Judd's finest work always commands. At the same time, he evades the danger of ponderousness. Open at both ends, the units have a lightness about them.

The plainness of the plywood conveys his respect for the material, unvarnished and neatly fitted. Since nothing was allowed to interfere with the innate character of the Douglas

fir, it is surprising to enter the next room and find three plywood sculptures painted light red. They look almost exotic after the sobriety of the previous room, and in two of them aluminium channels run through their upper surfaces. One dark and matt, the other light and shining, these conduits remind us that Judd was not a backwoodsman. The intensity of his response to nature was matched by his engagement with the urban, mechanised world. His sculptures were fabricated using industrial methods.

He owned a handsome cast-iron building in Spring Street, New York, regarding its five-storey interior as an ideal setting for his own work. And the final gallery at Oxford proves that he could handle steel with aplomb. Here, in the loftiest and most spectacular of the rooms, Judd's art thrives. Only five sculptures are displayed, but their placement is perfectly judged. Notices throughout the show warn visitors not to touch the flawless surface of the works. But I itched to run my hand over the box-like sculpture in corten steel. Projecting like a cupboard from the wall, its front and sides possess a dense, furry texture. The colour of rust, it is at the same time unexpectedly sensuous. And the sculpture's appeal is reinforced by the interior, where a sheet of lime-yellow plexiglass has been inserted at the back.

As he grew older, Judd became increasingly fascinated by the challenge of incorporating colour in his most ambitious sculpture. Six wall-panels from the 1980s are on view at Waddington Galleries in London,

and their dramatically contrasted blocks of colour give them a surprisingly busy impact.

At Oxford, though, colour is only revealed after close scrutiny. Seen from a distance, the tall, upright wall-work appears to consist solely of ten ascending units in stainless steel. Their sheen stresses a machine-like, impersonal mood. But as you approach, the entire sculpture becomes suffused with the warmth of the red plexiglass within each unit. Glowing like a ruby, it discloses an interest in sumptuousness which Judd's early work shunned.

All the evidence suggests that he grew more intoxicated by the possibilities of colour. In the centre of the floor, a colossal open container made of clear anodised aluminium presents a grey, spare surface to the viewer. Inside, however, plain statement gives way to resplendent plexiglass panels of amber. Their watery surfaces glow and catch reflections of the windows high above.

Even near the end of his life, Judd still regarded his use of colour as a "beginning". Sometimes he allowed it to overcomplicate his sculpture, with fussy and unresolved results. But the final exhibit at Oxford, a wall-work coated in cadmium paint mixed with sand, has a fierce directness. In the centre, a circle of dark red glass sits like a boiling sun. The entire work exudes stillness and heat with equal force, going a long way towards explaining why Judd spent so many of his later years in the Texas desert. For all his adherence to tough-minded abstraction, his art was surely powered by a love of the American landscape at its most immense, primordial and awesome.

● Donald Judd at Oxford Museum of Modern Art (01865-722 733) until March 26 and at Waddington Galleries, London (0171-437 8611) until Feb 11

In later life, Judd was intoxicated by the possibility of colour

Bring on the quick-marching camels

India's annual big parade, held in Delhi last week, is as much a display of spectacular art as of military pomp, says Tunku Varadarajan

Many readers will find such a thing startling. Conventional wisdom, after all, assumes parades as mere spectacles, not as art forms. At the Indian Republic Day parade (which took place last Sunday) turns such wisdom on its unburned head. This parade, the best in the world, more than just a march past of starchy men and martial bands, it is a bewitching infection of costumes, colour, animals, rhythms, polished pots and such hybrid music as would leave no musicologist unmoved.

Of course the parade is not without its politics and its snobs, its gushing official commentary and its ballistic missiles. What the non-violent Mahatma Gandhi — whose just was present in a giant allusion replica — would have made of the martial bragging,

however, was on the day a question only for killjoys and sociologists. But unlike the grand parades of the old Soviet Union, this parade was accompanied neither by a dispiriting ideology nor by a sub-text of menace. There was instead the passion of a newish nation enjoying a day of pageantry. And no venue, not even Red Square, could be more striking than the expansive central avenue of Lutyens's New Delhi, with the Presidential Palace (formerly the home of viceroys) looming in the background.

The singularity of India's Republic Day Parade lies in its dramatic recipe: nowhere else can one find the purest military swagger married to so much balletic precision. No other parade can boast such well-dressed soldiers, for in the art of martial costume India is unrivalled. Drawing on the same resources and traditions which give the country its theatre and dance, the uniforms on display also combine the pomp of pre-colonial India with the panache of the British Indian Army.

Consider the Bombay Sappers, in their turbans of red, yellow, and gold; the Rajput

Regiment, each soldier with his own blood-red concomb — or Turra — and perfectly waxed moustache; the Sikh Light Infantry in their starched saffron pugrees; or

the Kumaon Regiment, with topes worn at a jaunty angle, green pom-poms bobbing with the impact of each step. Even the notorious Central Reserve Police Force, so badly

disciplined when not on parade, showed at least that it is not badly dressed, its turbans a riot of turquoise and white.

Why should we not think of the march past of these men as theatre, or dance? And it was not a procession of men alone. As immaculate in drill as each clockwork regiment were the animals. The 61st Cavalry of the Indian Army, the only surviving horse cavalry in the world still in combat use, pranced past, all equine twinkle-toes, to "Bonnie Highlander", played on the bagpipes by the regimental band of the Gurkha Rifles. The Camel Corps swayed past, each beast decked in raw silk, each rider on a wide saffron saddle. The camels, too, marched in step, to the strains of "Hum Main Seema Suraksha Bal" ("We are the border security force"), played by the regimental band, also on camel-back.

"Bonnie Highlander" was, in fact, the only example of music from the country's colonial past. Indian soldiers march now not just to a new political order but also to new music. And beguiling music it is too, as the bagpipers slip expertly into the more plaintive melodic idiom of India.



A giant balloon replica of Mahatma Gandhi towers over the missiles and other military paraphernalia

NEW YORK GALLERIES

Cindy Sherman's recent photographs introduce a general blurring into her normally static constructions. This swirling photographic activity implies a new kind of drama, a narrative born of movement. Parts of dolls; a head looming up from a bandaged body; a torso with a penis: all these are shot from extreme angles and then reproduced large in bright colour. This tactic has an obvious affinity with the sensational side of film, like a frame from *Don't Look Now*, a still from *The Exorcist*. Perhaps one can detect a cycle in Sherman's progress from her early black and white constructions, through works picturing herself with props, to the "movement" of these latest works where focus and grip are slightly lost.

Metropolitan Pictures, 150 Greene Street, New York 10012, (0101 212) 219 2027, until February 18

□ The sound of Jimi Hendrix blares out from one of the many exhibitions of Brazilian art currently in New York. Entitled *Cosmococa CC55 Hendrix: War 1973*, the piece by Helio Oiticica was originally made in 1973 and has been reassembled here. Hammocks strung across a darkened room make up a forest of shadows. There is constant music as a cycle of enormous photographs is projected on to all four walls. A sign suggests that it is possible to use the hammock, and once timidity is overcome it is possible to see that there are others swaying in the dark. A cut-throat razor lies across an image of Hendrix; burnt matches and a pile of white powder are laid across and on top of Hendrix's nose. The music ensures a straightforward atmosphere. This is a literal blast from the past.

Marian Goodman Gallery, 24 West 57th Street, New York 10019 (0101 212) 977 7160, until Saturday

□ The hitherto unpublished photographs of "The Movies" taken by Diane Arbus between 1956 and 1958 consist of many layers of pre-existing images: straight shots of film stills; a lobby still of a corpse with blood coming out of its mouth from *The Fastest Girl in Paris*; the poster for *Baby Doll*; the "No Smoking" sign put up on a screen; and "Mr. Peanut" parading outside in Times Square. Arbus's obsession with B-movies shows the photographer's unwillingness to differentiate between the "real" and constructed.

Robert Miller, 41 East 57th Street, New York 10022, (0101 212) 980 5454, until Saturday

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Etica and Marzotto (detail), 1629-30
Musée de Louvre, Département des Peintures.
Photo: Photo C.R.M.N. - D. Arnaud

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LONDON

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC Tonight's concert is your last chance to see the orchestra's principal conductor, Yehudi Menuhin, for some time. They embark on a major American tour next month and Menuhin then stays on as guest conductor for the Philadelphia Orchestra. The programme includes Beethoven's Four Seasons, Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No 3 and Shostakovich's Symphony No 5. Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171-320 8800). Tonight, 7.30pm.

LOVE'S LABOURS LOST Opening night for Jonny Agutter, returning to the RSC with a new cast for the final UK performances of an award-winning production. Barter's Centre, SE1 (0171-320 8800). Tonight, 7.30pm.

DUKE BLUEBEARD'S CASTLE Opening night for the British premiere of a play that has inspired a multimedia production and performed by five women for The Soho Group. A number of unrepentant quality but intriguing. Theatre Royal, 74 Farnham Lane, SW6 (0171-320 4905). Tonight, 8pm. Mon-Sat, 8pm, until Feb 18.

ELSEWHERE

LEDS Director Christopher Bruce returns to the Rambert Dance Company's rehearsal tour this week.

AIN'T MISBEHAVIN' The Fats Waller musical show an evening of stomping, tapping, exuberant song and dance. Theatre Royal, 100 St. Martin's Lane, W1C (0171-320 8800). Mon-Sat, 8pm, until Feb 18.

AS YOU LIKE IT Check by Jowl's all-star Shakespearean, spare, inventive, and utterly funny, with Adrian Lester as a cunningly foolish. Theatre Royal, 100 St. Martin's Lane, W1C (0171-320 8800). Mon-Sat, 8pm, until Feb 18.

THE LIBERTINE Stephen Jeffreys' account of the life and times of the 18th-century English writer, John Bunyan. Theatre Royal, 100 St. Martin's Lane, W1C (0171-320 8800). Mon-Sat, 8pm, until Feb 18.

THE THREE LIVES OF LUCIE CARROLL Award-winning performance from Lucie Carroll in Simon McCleave's thrilling production on the lives and death of a woman who became a legend. Theatre Royal, 100 St. Martin's Lane, W1C (0171-320 8800). Mon-Sat, 8pm, until Feb 18.

THE LONG RUNNERS A series of short plays by various writers, including Caryl Phillips, Simon McCleave, and others. Theatre Royal, 100 St. Martin's Lane, W1C (0171-320 8800). Mon-Sat, 8pm, until Feb 18.

THE CLAUDELINE MARRIAGE Neil Hannon plays the dispirited and lonely Claude, who is a strong case of a 19th-century great, snobbish and true. Theatre Royal, 100 St. Martin's Lane, W1C (0171-320 8800). Mon-Sat, 8pm, until Feb 18.

EAST Simon Storr's drama of a young man's journey to find himself in a world of chaos and war. Theatre Royal, 100 St. Martin's Lane, W1C (0171-320 8800). Mon-Sat, 8pm, until Feb 18.

KILLER JOE A dark, disturbing, and utterly brilliant play by Caryl Phillips. Theatre Royal, 100 St. Martin's Lane, W1C (0171-320 8800). Mon-Sat, 8pm, until Feb 18.

THE LAST REDUCTION A play by Simon Storr, about a young man's journey to find himself in a world of chaos and war. Theatre Royal, 100 St. Martin's Lane, W1C (0171-320 8800). Mon-Sat, 8pm, until Feb 18.

THE ADVENTURES OF PRICILLA, QUEEN OF THE DESERT A play by Simon Storr, about a young man's journey to find himself in a world of chaos and war. Theatre Royal, 100 St. Martin's Lane, W1C (0171-320 8800). Mon-Sat, 8pm, until Feb 18.

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TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

with programmes of his own production, including *Early's Dream*, *Crucifixion*, and *International*.

choreographer Marsha Clarke (Garden of Earthly Delights), John Lyden (The Merry and the Sad), and John Lyden (The Merry and the Sad).

Bruck's popular *Requiem*, set to Robert Schumann's music, joins the repertoire in Brighton in March.

Grain's *Heavenly Bodies* (0130 459351) tonight, 7.30pm, Sat, 2.30pm.

LEATHERHEAD Peter Bowles headlines another show for the Theatre, as the ageing husband in *Leatherhead* and *Leatherhead*.

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OPERA: Rodney Milnes on a visually impaired but aurally superb *Boccanegra* in New York

Close your eyes and just listen

Simon Boccanegra
Metropolitan Opera

To suggest that the new production of *Simon Boccanegra* at the Met says all there is to be said about the house's current production style would be an oversimplification. But it certainly brings few surprises. Musically it is extremely distinguished; visually it is moribund.

The slavish "realism" of Michael Scott's sets may (inexplicably) win rounds of applause, but their essential bogusness is shown up in a Council Chamber with a painted ceiling that could never have been seen in 14th-century Genoa, but might possibly have been in Venice two centuries later. This is operatic Never Never Land. The production is credited to Giancarlo del Monaco, and amounts to little more than decorative traffic direction.

But the singing and playing of one of Verdi's most elusive scores transport us to something approaching operatic paradise. Cheryl Studer, who was to have sung Amelia, dropped out the last evening of the press release suggested that she will not be dropping in again in the near future. Her substitute was Kiri Te Kanawa, which indicates the level of the Met's casting. Dame Kiri was in peachy form for what has always been one of her best roles, making the treacherous opening aria sound easy as pie and soaring over the Council Chamber ensemble like an angel. Robert Lloyd, also familiar to London audiences in this opera, was in gloriously solid voice as Fiesco.

Most star tenors are snuffy about Gabriele Adorno — it is not at first sight a showy role — but, again, the Met can apparently lure Plácido Domingo to undertake it, and he sang

with a youthful vigour to belie his years of experience. If the *fessitura* is a little high for him nowadays, he betrayed precious little evidence of it. This, and his Siegmond at La Scala last month, bear witness to a versatility and longevity unchallenged among today's tenors.

The one arguable piece of casting was that of Vladimir Chernov in the title role. His beautifully liquid lyric baritone is a touch light for so heroic a role in a house this size, a fact emphasised by Del Monaco frequently placing him helplessly far upstage. But his pianissimo top F on "Figlia" at the end of the recognition duet touched the heart and, once past the Council Chamber scene, where he was outshining by Bruno Polak's incisive, granite-toned Paolo, the suppleness of his tone and expressiveness of his phrasing showed exactly why he had been chosen.

In his years at the Met James Levine has made the orchestra and chorus among the best in the world. Precision of ensemble, blending of orchestral colour, balance (the offstage chorus perfectly placed in Fiesco's aria): all were impressive. Levine delivered visceral operatic excitement in the Council Chamber, but otherwise emphasised the gentle autumnal tints of the score, and never allowed the overall sound to stray outside the work's idiom (there are many temptations to do so in the recognition scene). His was a deeply felt and rewarding reading.



Plácido Domingo as Gabriele Adorno and Kiri Te Kanawa — an illustrious substitute as Amelia — in *Simon Boccanegra* at the Met

CONCERTS: Rare airing for Martinů's minor masterpiece; Boulez's birthday continues

A legend at the right time



Jack Shepherd: English narrator for a Czech Smetana oratorio

STANDING in for Maurizio Pollini in Bartók's Second Piano Concerto cannot be the easiest of assignments. But Michel Béroff was able to do just that. In the fourth of Pierre Boulez's 70th birthday concerts with the LSO, and acquiring himself very creditably.

Not that it was plain sailing. Indeed there were problems even before the performance began. Béroff plays a low stool, in the Glenn Gould tradition. The one provided would not lower itself sufficiently, and a new one had to be brought in. Once underway, though, Béroff's account had verve and an impelling rhythmic drive, and his cadenza in the first movement brought a ferocious

assault with crashing clutches of filled-in double octaves.

What one missed in all this, however, was the clear definition of Bartók's neo-Bachian counterpoint. When that great Bach player Andras Schiff plays the music, the counterpoint emerges with astonishing clarity, and his textures, while remaining virtuosic in execution, are light and buoyant.

Béroff's, by contrast, were beligerently heavy, contradicting the composer's own allusion to "the more popular and lighter cast" of this concerto's themes.

BBCSO/Béla Bartók
Festival Hall

chorus, with a narrator to link some episodes in a duration of just under an hour.

JAZZ

Quietly flows the Don

"WHEN you get into your mid-forties you realise you don't have forever to do what you want. I wanted to play jazz and write music," says 47-year-old Brooklyn-born composer-pianist Don Grolnick. It explains why he finds himself leading an eight-piece jazz ensemble on a tour of the UK instead of carrying on life as a leading figure on the studio circuit (producer of albums by James Taylor, Luther Vandross and Roberta Flack). The downside of such a decision has already become apparent: Grolnick's two recent albums for Blue Note failed to make money and have been deleted. The result was enthusiastic punters pouring into the in-house CD stall, to be confronted by albums featuring Grolnick's stellar sidemen, the Brecker Brothers and Peter Erskine, and not by either of Grolnick's masterpieces, *Weaver of Dreams* and *Nighttown*.

Don Grolnick
Queen Elizabeth Hall

The upside, however, was apparent immediately: his band launched themselves into the loping strains of the concert's (and *Nighttown*'s) opener, "Heart Of Darkness". Everything that makes Grolnick's music so compelling — the deceptive simplicity of his themes, the sonorous beauty of his arrangements for his four-horn front line, his ability to infuse his music with an easy but insistent swing — was present, and remained on display throughout two hour-long sets.

As a pianist, Grolnick is stylishly inventive rather than sparklingly virtuosic, but then, with both Randy and Michael Brecker in his front line blasting out breathtaking solos at every opportunity, guile and subtlety were useful counterweights. These were supplied in abundance, not only by Grolnick himself, but by his other frontline soloists, Marty Ehrlich (who switched between alto, bass clarinet and flute) and trombonist Robin Eubanks.

Firmly grounded by the discreet power of bassist Peter Washington and drummer Erskine and enlivened, in a second half devoted mainly to Latin jazz, by percussionist Don Alias, this was a near-perfect band.

CHRIS PARKER

Few laughs in a Dutch treat

CINEMA: At the Rotterdam Film Festival Geoff Brown reviews the latest from Polanski and the earliest of Tati

There were no trumpets, fireworks or dancing girls when the 24th Rotterdam Film Festival, the first major European festival of the year, got underway last Wednesday night. For the opening attraction was Ariel Dorfman's play *Death and the Maiden*, as filmed by Roman Polanski. Since attending any festival bears some similarity to being walled up in a mausoleum — all those days in the dark, all those depressing films about man's fate — death is the last thing you want to meet after checking into the hotel.

Polanski's version, largely shot in a Paris studio, keeps reverently to the stage play's format. There are just three characters and one basic set, a secluded South American beach house in a nameless, fragile democracy, where Dorfman's heroine binds, gags and harangues the doctor who she believes raped her 14 times years earlier when the dictators ruled. There is some opening out, but no escaping Dorfman's words, or the actors' faces, or the beach-house set of Pierre Guffroy, all wood, windows and rectangular hard lines.

More than 30 years ago Polanski's first feature, *Knife in the Water*, demonstrated his skills at creating tension and manipulating tiny casts. The skills have not vanished. But here he serves as an adapter on a worthy assignment, not a director shaping his personal vision. For all the high-powered acting from Sigourney Weaver (the vengeful heroine), Stuart Wilson (her bemused husband) and Ben Kingsley (the accused doctor), the film soon begins to feel arid and small, and lacks the dynamism that made the material lift off on stage. If *Death and the Maiden* set audiences frowning, much else remains to pique curiosity in a festival dedicated to the new, the raw, the neglected and the outlandish. Few other festivals would take the trouble to resurrect the variable but fascinating films of Karel Kachyna, a 70-year-old Czech veteran who has managed to survive through his country's changing fortunes.

Few others, too, would think of presenting a selection of Japanese pornography, made by bright young directors eager to experiment within strict genre requirements. At 9.30 on a wet Sunday morning, when the good people of Rotterdam were either in church or in bed, a sizeable audience gathered to watch Sato Hisayasu's *Muscle*, a sadomasochistic tale inspired by the



Roman Polanski's new film version of Ariel Dorfman's *Death and the Maiden*, largely shot in a Paris studio, keeps reverently to the format of the successful stage play

death of Pasolini. We emerged unsure about the director's talent, but had an interesting time learning new things to do with a tub of margarine and a human arm preserved in formaldehyde.

Previously, Rotterdam bestowed no official awards. But time moves on; and with so many other festivals offering their Golden Lions, Leopards and the rest, any event unable to offer film-makers the prestige of a possible award can be at a disadvantage when securing submissions. So the menagerie now has a newcomer, the Tiger Award, ready and waiting for first or second-time film-makers.

It would be good if the Rotterdam Tiger, funded by PolyGram Filmed Entertainment, could be bestowed on films with sharp claws and a distinctive roar. Halfway through the festival, the outlook does not promising. Among the new product on display, former Communist countries are offering their usual impenetrable Kafka-esque parables containing much barbed wire and guards' guarding nothing in a

fortress. America is represented by sketchy low-budget films that saw between crude slices of life and ponderous slabs of art. As for France, people fall in and out of love, smoke constantly and ride the Métro; this we knew before.

budget productions, with a limited number of characters, locations, and if you're lucky a couple of storylines. I strongly miss the films that were made in between. They have not vanished entirely, though. Take *The Day the Sun*

From former Communist countries come impenetrable parables with much barbed wire; from America come sketchy low-budget films

The festival's director, Emile Fallaux, seems half-aware of his selection's shortcomings. Interviewed in the trade magazine *Moving Pictures*, he ponders on the scarcity of "well-made, artistic movies" in world production. "On one side there's Hollywood, which puts more money into less product, while on the other side there are low-

turned Cold, a powerful drama from Hong Kong. The film begins with a young man reporting a ten-year-old murder to the police. The victim: his father. The murderer: his mother. Flashbacks fill in the details, and snatch us from urban life to the bleak, frozen countryside and a struggling family selling beancurd. The father mysteriously

dies just as the mother takes a lover. Could it be poison? Yim Ho, the director, is not interested in making a simple thriller. Rather, this is a moving study in relationships.

Even in a generally poor crop, some undiscovered film-makers can still grab you by surprise. Festival regulars have learnt to run from dishevelled portraits of dishevelled life in the former Soviet Union. But Yana Drouz, in *Ryadom*, has a new angle: she uses dogs to give us an endearing parable about love, dependency and desperation. The personable hero is a quick-witted German shepherd who outwits the dogcatchers, befriends a Great Dane, and anachronically to an aimless, trod-upon youth in Moscow's scruffy suburbs.

In *Oublie-moi* a new French director, Noémie Lvovsky, also breathes life into a cliché. This is a drama about relationships that abandons all frills. There is no plot as such, only talk and quarrelling as the wayward Nathalie flits from Paris apartment to apartment, abandoning the man who loves her,

and uselessly pestering a former boyfriend. By rights Nathalie should be a maddening heroine, but Valeria Bruni-Tedeschi gives such a committed, expressive performance that you are entirely in her grip.

There is also one film at Rotterdam guaranteed to vanquish any shadows cast by *Death and the Maiden*. This is Jacques Tati's first feature, *Jour de Fête*, unveiled anew to rapturous laughter after an elaborate restoration. Tati had always meant this droll portrait of a village and its bumbling postman to be in colour, but he shot the film in an archaic French colour process that defeated attempts to make an acceptable print. Luckily, he had taken the precaution to shoot in black-and-white as well, and this substitute version was the one released in 1949. The colour material survived, however, and with the technical problems licked *Jour de Fête* can now be seen in something like its original glory, bathed in pale, carefully co-ordinated colours. Joyous, humane, light as air: this should have been the opening film.

THEATRE: Forty years on, Osborne's rage erupts in Manchester



Claire Skinner brings her "beautiful, big-eyed, ivory purity" to Alison Porter, to be blown away by Michael Sheen's Jimmy — "a Midlands Hamlet: funny, desperate, lacerating"

LET'S get it straight. This is good: both production, starring Michael Sheen, and play. John Osborne, who died last Christmas, sparked off a revolution in British theatre when his angry young man, Jimmy Porter, burst onstage. Nowadays, *Look Back in Anger* tends to be thought of as a flash in the pan: a Royal Court shocker for 1950.

However, what hits you in the face when you re-encounter this kitchen-sink drama of marital breakdown is its staying power.

At lights-up in Gregory Hersov's new Manchester production, I wasn't sure for an instant if this was 1995. Nothing much has changed in the bedsit land of twenty-somethings, of junkshop furniture and charity-store clothes. Sheen's Porter is slumped in a worn-out brown armchair, dressed in a second-hand fisherman's woolly. University-educated and failing under-employed, bitterly discontented about Conservative Britain, physically cramped, spiritually frustrated and going off the deep end, he is disturbingly familiar. On the other hand, this is a scrupulously "period" production, down to the small print in

Still full of sound fury

Look Back in Anger
Royal Exchange

Porter's Sunday papers and his wife's "nice" enunciation. Claire Skinner's Alison has a beautiful, big-eyed, ivory purity. Sheen is a phenomenally talented young actor who makes the future of British theatre look bright. His Jimmy is a Midlands Hamlet: funny, desperate, passionate, lacerating. I was not quite convinced of his working-class roots, although his accent — dropped consonants enmeshed with the pusher vowels of a higher education — encapsulates his confusion of loyalties.

But, overall, this drama of shredded nerves needs one more turn of the screw. The production can skid across surfaces. Each barbed comment needs to be pushed

home. The design diffuses energy. There are no cramping attic walls. The Royal Exchange is in the round. That can be worked like a pressure-cooker: here, though, Laura Hopkins's bedsit spreads patially. Jimmy's rant echoes. Blasting away on the trumpet across the landing, he sounds streets away.

Hersov's direction is not absolutely focused. Cliff's tactics, comforting Alison or tackling Jimmy away from her, are slightly fuzzy. Helena's attraction for her friend's dangerous husband needs to be seeded from the start. Hermione Norris is a shade too collected, but her sexily smart-suited Helena has vulnerable flinches. She superbly combines the air of a minor royal and a mother-figure.

The others finely capture the childishness of the characters. More cutting than crushed by bullying, Skinner speaks with a little-girl pitch. Dominic Rowan's Cliff walks about slightly stiffly in his underpants, macho but as awkward as a lad. Sheen is the living portrait of a fiercely intelligent small boy screwing up into frustrated viciousness and mental collapse.

KATE BASSETT

Eyeball to eyeball with the Residents

Guy Walters on
Eye and Ear, the
ICA's imminent
celebration of the
uncommercial

No, it is not a rival product to *I Can't Believe It's Not Butter!* *Whatever Happened To Vice-Fats?* is actually a film produced in the early 1970s by a group of American performance artists called the Residents. The plot concerns a love triangle between a schizophrenic and an Indian priestess. Most of the action is performed by midgets, with the exception of a Siamese-twin knight who fights with himself for the attention of Peggy Honeydew, a nightclub singer. Meanwhile, a woman sits next to a crooked washing machine shouting, "More dirty white clothes!" Somewhere else, someone gets pelted with giant broccoli.

It all gets a little confusing here, but then this is part of *Eye and Ear*, the ICA's celebration of the work of cult groups. The programme also features a documentary about the underground band Half Japanese, in which the septua-

genarian mother of the lead singer announces: "Our 200-year-old house is the birthplace of punk." There are pop promos featuring bands like the Smiths and New Order, as well as a documentary on *Negativland*, once sued by U2's record company for releasing a song called "U2".

However, much of *Eye and Ear* is dedicated to the Residents. Ever since the group formed in California in 1970, they have kept their identities secret. Their customary stage schmutz consists of tailcoats, top hats and eyeball masks.

which is the nearest the band gets to a consistent image.

Their music could easily be dismissed as the stuff of concept albums. Their first album, *Meet the Residents*, was an overdubbed, remixed and re-sampled blend of percussion, piano, voices and woodwinds, with a little dollop of guitar and bass for good measure. Subsequent recordings such as *Third Reich & Roll*, *Fingerprince* and *Eskimo* were equally elaborate and non-commercial.

Eye and Ear contains a short documentary about the Residents, *Eyes Scream*, introduced by those extremely alternative magicians Penn and Teller. Jillette Penn, once the Residents' spokesman, is an aficionado of American underground music; he has even formed a record label that releases music by Half Japanese. During the documentary, Penn makes the point that if the Rolling Stones earn more from selling T-shirts than concert tickets, this surely makes them travelling T-shirt salesmen rather than rock stars. Let there be no doubt that *Eye and Ear* is fiercely anti-MOR, anti-AOR and anti-big business.

The Residents' latest project is *Ginger Bread Man*, a CD-Rom. "Unlike other artists," says Tim Brown, who compiled *Eye and Ear*, "the Residents do not use CD-Rom as a cynical marketing exercise without any critical response. They use it merely as another artistic tool."

Ginger Bread Man and *Freak Show*, another CD-Rom, last for 30 minutes. The original *Vice-Fats* took four years to make and ran for 14 hours. The project was abandoned, and only 32 minutes and 10 seconds remain. That's quite an edit.

Eye and Ear is at the ICA Cinema, The Mall, SW1 (0171-930 3047), tomorrow-Feb 12



Arnold Sidebottom does it. Kiss tried it, but no one has kept their anonymity as long as arch cult artists the Residents

THE TIMES

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LAW

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The skiing solicitor

A lawyer has
cornered the
downhill market,
says Hugh
Thompson

Every year more than 500,000 Britons go skiing. Last year it was a painful experience for 23,000 of them, who had to claim against their medical insurance. For some, the physical damage results in loss of earnings and, great pain, which in today's litigious society, means reaching for a lawyer. However, proving negligence on the part of the ski-firm company or another skier, who may also be a foreign national, in a third country is not straightforward.

For the increasing band who do not take their bumps and bruises as part of the fun, Paul Maxlow Tomlinson, a partner with the Exeter firm of Stiles, stands by.

Mr Maxlow Tomlinson is the UK's first, but surely not last, specialist skiing lawyer. He not only skied competitively at Oxford, but trained as a guide before becoming a solicitor specialising in family law. He is also a member of the European and North American courts as the high-way code of the piste. Its simple rules are not legally binding, but their breach is taken as a strong prima facie evidence of negligence. Typically the skier who is out of control is in the wrong.

Mr Maxlow Tomlinson became involved in skiing law in 1982, then his daughter, then aged 3, fell 30ft off a faulty ski lift and broke her pelvis. "Once we had her safely at home I started to think perhaps someone should pay some compensation, but when I went back to the Swiss authorities they said that unless a case was lodged with the police within 24 hours there was no case to answer."

Since then, Mr Maxlow Tomlinson has, not least through the Ski Club of Great Britain, built up an international network of lawyers and doctors so that he is well placed to act for the insurance company on either the defendant or the plaintiff's side. At present, he is working on 150 cases related to skiing accidents, quarter of them are to do with faulty lifts.

As skiing has become more popular, the runs become busier with the less experienced. Crowd pressure has forced those who consider themselves better skiers into the more dangerous, uncharted off-piste areas. The recent introduction of snowboards has increased again the number and severity of accidents. "The trouble is that some cases can take years," says Mr Maxlow Tomlinson. "First you have to



Ready to litigate on behalf of ski-accident victims: Paul Maxlow Tomlinson, a partner with an Exeter firm

get the other side to admit liability.

"I had one where a girl was hit badly from behind and the other skier just kept going. Her boyfriend chased after him but the skier just turned round and said 'You must be mistaken'. His two sons, however, admitted that they had seen their father hit the girl higher up the slope."

"Then it takes time to get clearance from the doctor since no one wants to say when and where the injury ends. That's not such a problem in France, where you can sue for resulting injuries at any time after the accident."

"There are other differences: Swiss law has no concept of damages for pain and suffering. In Ireland, on that basis

alone you can get as much as £17,000 for a broken leg."

Most holidaymakers are covered by accident and general liability insurances, but many locals out for the day are not. One case on Mr Maxlow Tomlinson's books involves an Italian student who snowboarded into an English holidaymaker watching her son take his first skiing class.

The lawyer, through Italian private detectives, is trying to find out whether the negligent party is worth pursuing through his household insurance or another policy.

In one case, in which an Englishman died off piste, his family was initially awarded £250,000 because he fell into a badly fenced crevasse. On appeal, the sum was halved as

the skier was judged to have been "imprudent and personally negligent in losing control of his skis near the crevasse".

In another case, a less experienced skier sued another because he took him on to a dangerous run where he had an accident. Here the experienced skier's insurers settled before trial with a "substantial payment". Mr Maxlow Tomlinson says: "I think the insurers were worried about the publicity that would have come from a trial and about the liability of better skiers when leading others."

He admits that his niche of following the ambulances as they come off the snow has kept him busy. What is more, "it's terrific fun," he says. Just like skiing, for the majority.

Who inherits the powers of a king?

Tomorrow the House of Lords will hear an appeal by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, against the decision of the Court of Appeal that the new criminal injuries compensation scheme is unlawful. The central issue is the allocation of power between the legislature, the executive and the courts. In 1765, Blackstone asserted that it is "a necessary and fundamental principle of the English constitution" that "the King can do no wrong". Two centuries later, Parliament, ministers and judges have yet to resolve who has inherited which aspects of sovereignty.

In 1964, ministers introduced a non-statutory, *ex gratia* scheme for compensating victims of violent crime. The amount of compensation was based on common law principles. Sections 108-117 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 put the scheme on a statutory footing for the first time. But Parliament did not bring the provisions immediately into effect.

Section 171 states that sections 108-117, by contrast with some other provisions of the 1988 Act, "shall come into force on such day as the Secretary of State may by order made by statutory instrument appoint". Instead of naming the happy day, the Government decided, outside the statutory provisions, to introduce a less expensive *ex gratia* system of awards which would not be based on common law damages, but would depend on a tariff for each category of injury. That scheme came into effect last April. When the Fire Brigades Union, and a number of other trade unions, challenged its legality, the Home Secretary gave an undertaking that if he lost the case, no claimant would be prejudiced by the introduction of the new provisions.

In the Court of Appeal, Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, accepted that the Home Secretary had a discretion not to bring sections 108-117 into effect, and that his failure to do so was lawful, since he was concerned about the cost. So the Secretary of State could lawfully continue with the non-statutory scheme which had existed (with minor amendments) since 1964. He could have sought Parliament's approval for his new scheme. Or he could have invited Parliament to repeal the relevant provisions of the 1988 Act, and introduced his new scheme by the exercise of his common law powers.

But, in the judgment of the Master of the Rolls, the Secretary of State could not lawfully establish a new scheme radically different from the existing (albeit unimplemented) provisions which Parliament had enacted. By so acting, he had "abused his prerogative or common law powers".

Lord Justice Mummery reached the same conclusion for substantially the same reasons.

He emphasised that though sections 108-117 had not yet been implemented, section 171 was in force.

Lord Justice Hobhouse dissented. In his judgment, sections 108-117 had not become law (because the Home Secretary had not brought them into effect) and therefore "they are incapable of creating rights or duties". For that reason, the provisions of the 1988 Act could not be relied upon as the basis of an argument that the Secretary of State is abusing his powers.

In recent decades, the courts have developed a number of important constitutional principles: ministers cannot incur expenditure without specific statutory authority, ministers may act through their civil servants, legislation cannot exclude the powers of the courts to decide on the validity of the actions of ministers or of tribunals, a statutory power may only be exercised for the purpose for which it was conferred by Parliament, and a minister of the Crown acting in his official capacity can be liable for contempt of court. Each of these principles has been asserted, expressly or impliedly, a theory about the nature of constitutional government in the United Kingdom.

The resolution of the criminal injuries case will depend on whether the law lords are willing to recognise and apply a principle of constitutional law which asserts the subservience of the executive to Parliament so that the common law powers of ministers are confined to areas where Parliament has not spoken.

The 1988 Act contained the detailed scheme for compensating victims of crime of which Parliament approved. Though that scheme is not yet in force, section 171 does have legal effect. It gives a discretion to the Secretary of State whether, and if so when, to implement the detailed provisions.

Parliament's intention cannot, however, have been to allow the Secretary of State the freedom to implement an inconsistent scheme. If that had been the intention, then instead of sections 108-117 the Act would have authorised the Secretary of State to introduce any scheme that he, the Secretary of State, thought appropriate.

When considering the extent to which a minister retains common law powers after Parliament has addressed a topic, the House of Lords should bear in mind the words of John Marshall, Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, in 1819: "We must never forget that it is a constitution we are expounding."

The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



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FRESHFIELDS

Joining a
top team

DOWNING Street last week announced the promotion of Sir Leonard Hoffmann to the House of Lords, shortly after his fellow South African, Sir John Sny, went up to the Lords in December. The appointments bring to 12 the total number of law lords; the two extra posts were created after the Lord Chancellor secured extra funding last autumn from the Treasury.

Both Sirs Hoffmann, 60, and Sny, 62, are very highly regarded. Sir Leonard put forward his measures for a new "fast-track" procedure for libel claims which the Lord Chancellor has taken up, and Sir John has been chairing the key body overseeing the legal profession, the Lord Chancellor's advisory committee, where he has taken a robust view of future education and training of the profession.



Lord Hoffmann

The House of Lords now boasts one of the strongest, and most liberal, teams of law lords it has ever fielded.

Operation sue
WOMEN who have had hysterectomies or had ovaries removed without their con-

sent are banding together to prepare for legal action. A new pressure group — the Reproductive Organs Conservation Trust (ROCT) — has been formed to help meet the legal costs of about 30 women who are taking or preparing court cases.

Britain has one of the highest hysterectomy rates in Europe — 70,000 operations a year. In one case, criminal charges have been brought against a surgeon who allegedly carried out radical surgery without consent.

Fraud flop

FRAUD is increasingly seen as an inevitable part of corporate life, according to the biennial survey of senior executives carried out by Ernst & Young.

Even though almost half the companies surveyed by

the chartered accountants had experienced fraud in the last 18 months, far fewer senior managers expressed concern about it and there seems to be rapidly declining faith in the usefulness of written procedures. Not one fraud reported by a top company was detected by external auditors.

The report was published only a few days after it became known that a former Ernst & Young employee had been jailed for five years for the theft of £1.6 million from the firm's clients.

Fancy a job?

FANCY a job promoting the UK's largest law firm? Robert Pay is leaving his position as head of marketing at Clifford Chance after being offered a similar role at the Stock Exchange.

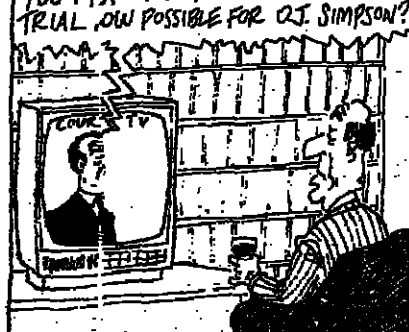
A spokesman says that the firm is relying on finding a replacement through word of mouth and recruitment. The salary is also not disclosed.

SCRIVENOR

STEWART & FRANCIS

QUEEN'S COUNSEL

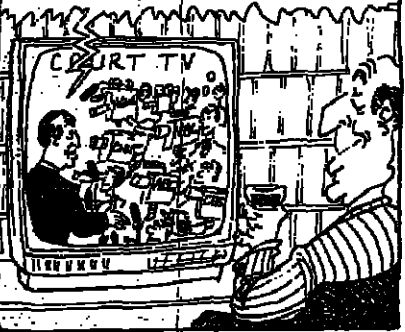
YOU MUST NOW DECIDE—IS A FAIR TRIAL NOW POSSIBLE FOR C.J. SIMPSON?



HAS EXCESSIVE MEDIA ATTENTION GROSSLY PREJUDICED MY CLIENT?



LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE JURY—



PENSIONS

Travers Smith Braithwaite is a leading UK corporate law firm servicing an outstanding client list. The firm's pensions department has an excellent reputation and is one of the firm's fastest growing areas.

We are looking for a high calibre 2 to 4 year qualified lawyer who has first class experience in all aspects of pensions law.

You will be joining a highly motivated department which has a good working atmosphere, a balanced attitude to life and which deals with top quality work.

You must be a good communicator, be prepared to take an active role in promoting the department and maintaining its high standards and have the ability to deal in a practical and commercial way with challenging and often novel legal issues.

The salary package will be very competitive and there are excellent prospects.

Please telephone either Paul Stannard or Stephanie Smith on 071 248 9133 or write to them at Travers Smith Braithwaite, 10 Snow Hill, London EC1A 2AL.

TRAVERS SMITH BRAITHWAITE

CFP LONDON

HOLBORN
Highly regarded small/medium firm seeks commercial litigation solicitor to handle general caseload to include insolvency. Candidates likely to be at or close to partner level in a similar type London firm. Quality work and excellent prospects. Ref: 8888.

CITY
Leading firm seeks solicitors qualified 2 to 4 years to handle asset finance and project finance work. Candidates will possess quality experience and a top academic record. Outstanding opportunity to join an active and friendly department with realistic prospects. Ref: 8228.

CITY
Large City firm seeks senior IP lawyer to join expanding department. Workload is predominantly contentious with elements of entertainment/franchise work. Candidates must have a science background and have between 5-7 years relevant exp. Ref: 8449.

CITY
Leading City practice requires: FSA lawyers to join their London project group. Successful candidates will have between 2-3 years relevant exp from a top City firm and a good academic background. Excellent move for an ambitious individual. Ref: 8985.

CITY
Major City firm seeks a recently qualified solicitor to join their busy commercial property department. Ideal candidate will have excellent academic and will have had good relevant experience within articles in a top City firm. Excellent opportunity. Ref: 8987.

Above is just a small representative sample of some of the vacancies we have registered with us from law firms throughout London. For more information on our services telephone us or alternatively write to us at 4 Bloomsbury Place, London WC1A 2QA; 157 Newhall Street, Birmingham B3 1SR; 22 Darnley Road, Manchester M2 1PB; 34-36 Corn Street, Bristol BS1 1BT; or 32 Sovereign Street, Leeds LS1 4BN. All enquiries will be treated in strictest confidence. Only Charles Bellows are able to keep a Watching Brief on your career.

SOUTH Tel: 0171-404 7007
LONDON Tel: 0171-637 1313
LEEDS Tel: 0113 246 0600
BRISTOL Tel: 0117 930 4644
BIRMINGHAM Tel: 0121-200 3363
MANCHESTER Tel: 0161-831 7007

Charles
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Partnership

LONDON & REGIONS

● **Construct** 3-5yrs to £60,000
Leading City practice; non cost and cost specialists sought; overseas travel; early responsibility and client contact guaranteed.

● **Employ** c3yrs to £38,000
Innovative commercial practice (c20 firms) seeks employ lawyer with non cost background. Mixed c/cood env. Excellent prospects.

● **Co/Co/CP** 2-5yrs to £53,000
c20p WC2 firm with flourishing comm dep't has superb opp for Co Comm sol to handle broad comm + LP caseload.

● **Shipping** 1/2-3yrs to £36,000
One of UK's foremost shipping firms seeks top flight lawyer for mainly wet c/cood. Lawyers with good dry exp also considered.

● **LT** 2-4yrs to £45,000
Cutting edge dept of top City/region firm seeks 2 comm litigators interested in development of computer law/practice.

● **Priv Client** 2-4yrs to £42,000
Top cost team in core dept of expanding c10 partner City firm owns conditions sol with broad private client/tax exp.

● **Comm Prop** 1-3yrs to £37,000
Top City firm with international clients and reputation seeks exceptional cost for strategic role. General caseload envs, unusual.

● **Corporate** NQ-1yr Oxon
Rare opp for sol. to join flourishing comm practice bias towards corp finance. Outstanding qty of life and prospects.

● **Co/Comm** c7yrs N. East
No following expected. Small and highly productive firm seeks entrepreneurial sol with first rate exp/acc. Partnership prospects excellent.

● **Const/Prop Lit** 1-2yrs Bristol
Major comm practice seeks lawyer for mixed c/cood. Continuation training given along with top rate remuneration.

● **Prop Lit** 2-5yrs North
Major net firm, rapidly expanding in the north, seeks L&T exp/cost. Excellent ground floor opportunity with prospects.

● **Co Co** 1-2yrs Bristol
Thriving corp dep't of major firm is expanding new inst, hence need for technically able + commercially sound sol.

● **Employ** 1yr++ N.E./Mchstr
2 of UK's biggest regional firms both with busy emp units are each looking for law emp lawyer for cost/non-cost caseload.

● **P/L/RTA** 2-7yrs N. East
Acting for insurers + indus our client a c20 ptn firm seeks sol or v experienced legal exec to take on large c/cood. Exc prospects.

To discuss any of these opportunities in greater detail please contact Jon Garrett or Simon Janion on 071 404 6689 (evenings/weekends 081 674 3971), or write to us, in complete confidence, at Eagan Janion Recruitment Ltd., 6 Warwick Court, London WC1R 5DJ. (Fax: 071 404 0489).

EAGAN JANION

ASSISTANT LEGAL ADVISER

Salary circa £24,000 pa London W1

The Retail Motor Industry Federation is the principal organisation representing the motor trade, the members of which sell, service, repair and recover all types of motor vehicles, and sell fuel.

A vacancy exists for a lawyer at the Head Office in London to join a team providing advice on a wide range of matters, but principally commercial, consumer, European and employment law.

The position offers an excellent opportunity for developing experience in a broad field of commercial activity.

In addition to an attractive starting salary, a range of benefits is offered, including 25 days annual holiday, contributory pension scheme, and private health insurance.

Please apply in confidence with full CV, including details of current salary to:

Ms S Khan
Head of Legal Department
Retail Motor Industry
Federation Limited
201 Great Portland Street
London W1N 6AB

CHAMBERS ADMINISTRATOR - LEEDS

A set of General Common Law Barristers' Chambers in Leeds, at the present time dealing principally with criminal and family law, wishes to appoint a chambers administrator to work closely with the present clerks and other administrative staff.

It is expected that the successful candidate will:

- * be qualified to degree or diploma level in a relevant discipline or will have appropriate experience
- * have proven ability to manage change in a business environment
- * have knowledge of marketing principles and practice
- * be competent to devise new systems and to utilise new technology

A legal background may be an advantage but is not essential.

Initial contract - 2 years with a starting salary of £27,000 + (negotiable)

Apply for full job description and application form to Barristers Chambers, 32 Park Square, Leeds LS1 2PF marked "Chambers Administrator" by 10.2.95

Pre-eminent European Law Firm - London

UK BANKING LAWYER - 3-4 YEARS' PQE PREMIER SALARY PACKAGE

Unlike many other international law firms, our Client's full-service practice is focused primarily on European legal work - Western, Central and Eastern-related. Its lawyers work in most major European languages providing the highest quality legal services to companies, financial institutions, governments and international organisations seeking expertise in Europe.

A UK qualified banking lawyer is now sought to join the firm's established banking team in London, undertaking a broad range of banking/finance work, within an international framework on complex, often innovative transactions.

Ideally, as a minimum of 3-4 years qualified, you will appreciate the scope and responsibility given to you in this firm's environment. An ability to speak one or more of French, German, Russian or Polish would be helpful but not essential.

If you are frustrated by the bureaucracy and lack of prospects in your current firm, then this unique opportunity cannot fail to appeal. An exceptional salary package (at least commensurate with those offered by the largest UK City practices) awaits you.

For further information in complete confidence, please contact Stephen Rodney or Greg Abrahamson on 0171-405 6062 (0171-266 5601 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Douglas Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4HJ. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394. Initial discussions can be held on a no-names basis.

QD
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UNITED KINGDOM · HONG KONG · NEW ZEALAND · AUSTRALIA · USA

DIBB LUPTON BROOMHEAD SOLICITORS

As an ambitious Pension Lawyer...
would you like to join the winning team?

Dibb Lupton Broomhead is the premier pension legal practice. We pride ourselves on the quality of our advice and our ability to deliver it so as best to serve our clients' commercial needs.

Our Human Resources Group is a leader in its field. Its prestigious client base includes multi-nationals, PLCs and 'sunrise' industries. The Pension Department within that Group wishes to continue its strategic expansion by making key appointments in Yorkshire.

You should be exploring this opportunity if you have upwards of 2 years experience after qualifying, in a dedicated pensions team. The senior position requires a minimum of 5 years in the specialism. Here is a chance to join a thriving team and to show your ability to shine in a stimulating environment.

The department has similar opportunities in London and Birmingham.

GRAHAM GILL & YOUNG
LEGAL RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Contact Tom Odey on 071-430 1711 or write to Graham Gill & Young, 44-46 Kingsway, London WC2B 6EN. (Fax: 071 831 4186)

Make Your Move !

Construction Litigation - to £40,000

Two niche City firms seek construction litigators with at least 2PQE. A leading Home Counties practice seeks additional employment litigation expertise.

Employee Best - City/Bristol/Leeds Counties
A number of leading firms seek lawyers from NQ-2PQE to handle varying combinations of work in this thriving area of the law, including pensions.

Banking - to £30,000 + bonus
International bank seeks 2PQE+ Lawyer to deal with banking documentation and provide general legal input relating to, inter alia, loan and security documentation for UK and overseas companies.

Followings Nationwide £200,000+
Our Practice Merger Section continues to handle numerous assignments. Solicitors with followings in all disciplines should contact Simon Lipson for a confidential discussion.

Com Property - London/Bristol/North

We have many urgent instructions for candidates with strictly 1-4PQE. Demand is high for those with City calibre experience in transactional, development or funding work.

Co/Co - South/Mid/North to £35,000
Top notch Solicitors with 1-4PQE are sought by a number of leading practices to handle a range of corporate and general commercial matters including Yellow Book, M & A and joint ventures.

Shipping Litigation - South to £35,000
High calibre candidate with 2-4PQE is urgently required by niche firm to handle a mainly dry shipping litigation caseload.

Commercial Lawyer to £35,000 + bonus
Lawyer with at least 4PQE is sought by major US company to handle commercial work with an international flavour. A second European language is desirable, a dynamic personality essential.

Intellectual Property/Commercial to £40k

At least 2 years dedicated IP experience is sought by this major London firm to handle non-contentious work including licensing and franchising.

Tax - London to £50,000
Major firm seeks tax expert to handle international, on-put, offshore, cross-border and employee benefits tax work. Superb opportunity for marketing oriented Lawyer.

Local Authority - c£35,000
Lawyer with 2-3PQE from a Metropolitan Borough Council is sought to handle a wide range of work including CCT, TUPE, outsourcing, planning and funding.

Energy - to £50,000 + bonus
High profile company seeks two Legal Advisers, one for general commercial work with c2PQE, the other more senior to deal with upstream oil and gas work.

Contact: Lucy Boyd, Marianne Ferguson, Simon Lipson or Marina Lloyd-Jones, to discuss your career in confidence.

LIPSON LLOYD-JONES - Legal Recruitment
127 CHEAPSIDE - LONDON - EC2V 6BT - TEL: 071-400 1690 - FAX: 071-400 1972

Pensions Shipping Insurance Compliance

CAYMAN ISLANDS

CORPORATE/COMMERCIAL LAWYER TRUST LAWYER

Two solicitors, each having a minimum of 5 years relevant experience with a major City firm, are sought to join a leading Cayman Islands law firm.

The successful applicants will join a team committed to providing excellent service to our international clients, advising on a variety of finance, mutual fund, banking and corporate matters. One lawyer will have a trust law to his workload.

The work calls for commitment and the ability to work under pressure.

The post will entail working in a modern office environment and living in one of the world's most attractive offshore financial centres. An outstanding performance related tax free remuneration package is offered.

Applications, with current C.V. should be sent by fax, as soon as possible to:

The Staff Partner, W.S. Walker & Company,
Caledonian House, P.O. Box 265, George Town, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands.
Tel: (809) 949-0100, Fax: (809) 949-7886

INTERVIEWS WILL TAKE PLACE IN LONDON IN MID-FEBRUARY 1995

W.S. WALKER & COMPANY
ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW

REINSURANCE LAWYERS

Lovell White Durrant is a leading international law firm, providing a complete range of corporate legal services to major clients around the world.

- We are one of the pre-eminent litigation practices and our contentious reinsurance practice is expanding significantly.
- We are seeking reinsurance lawyers to join us.
- You will be a two to three year qualified solicitor or barrister of equivalent call who already has knowledge and experience of the problems facing the reinsurance industry.
- You will wish to assume responsibility and continue to practice your chosen specialisation within a firm committed to the development of this important area of practice.
- You will enjoy working with an ambitious, dedicated and sociable team.

If you would like to explore this opportunity with us please write, enclosing a CV, to Mrs Anita Tovell, Head of Personnel, 65 Holborn Viaduct, London EC1A 2DY.

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WHITE
DURRANT

New York Paris Brussels Prague Ho Chi Minh City Hong Kong
Beijing Tokyo Shanghai (associated office)

HEAD OF TAX

BLUE CHIP BANK

City

£150,000 - £200,000 Package

Renowned as one of the leading financial institutions providing an extensive range of banking and financial services, both domestic and international, our Client's continuing marked success is built on long-term, mutually profitable relationships with its clients.

Reporting directly to a main board director, a leading tax specialist is sought to head the Group's taxation department with responsibility for tax and fiscal control over the whole of the Group.

Responsibilities will include:-

- formulating and developing the Group's taxation policy;
- exploiting tax planning opportunities both within Corporation and Value Added Taxes;
- overseeing compliance in all aspects of Group Tax;
- ensuring the most tax effective advice is given on major transactions;
- advising key business units on the most tax efficient methods of structuring and doing business.

Already a partner in a major City law or accounting practice, ideally aged between 37-50 with a background in banking/international taxation, the successful candidate - lawyer or accountant - will have a corporate tax specialism with some expertise of VAT issues. Of crucial importance is a highly developed commercial awareness, a proactive and creative approach to tax issues and the ability to contribute at a strategic level.

With opportunities for further career advancement within senior management, the comprehensive package will fully reflect the quality and stature of the Group and include a performance bonus, share option scheme, non-contributory pension, loans and executive car.

For further information in complete confidence, please contact Gareth Quarry or June Meath on 0171-405 6062 (0181-340 7078 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Douglas Commerce & Industry Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JL. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394. Initial discussions can be held on a no names basis.

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QUARRY DOUGALL

UNITED KINGDOM • HONG KONG • NEW ZEALAND • AUSTRALIA • USA

DERIVATIVES LAWYER

CITY

OUTSTANDING PACKAGE

Our client is the derivatives market making arm of one of the world's major banking groups. The group operates in nearly 30 countries across 5 continents.

The international legal team, operating from New York, provides a wide range of advice and support to traders, as well as dealing with derivatives documentation and negotiations. An increasing volume of work and an expansionist business strategy has necessitated a first in-house appointment in London.

As well as working closely with the frontline on the structuring of transactions, principal responsibilities will include the preparation and negotiation of ISDA Master Agreements and other swaps documentation. You will have direct reporting lines to the Chief Administrative Officer and the General Legal Counsel, both of whom are based in New York.

An excellent academic record, two to four years relevant post qualification experience and a track-record with a leading City firm, bank or securities house are necessary but the most important criteria are sound commercial sense, the ability to communicate effectively and make decisions under pressure.

This is a rare opportunity which will provide you with a high degree of autonomy, a group-wide profile and excellent commercial experience in an expanding organisation. The remuneration package will reflect the premium our client has attached to this position.

This assignment is being handled exclusively by Geraldine Hetherington LLB (Hons) Solicitor. All enquires should be made to her at Reuter Simkin, Recruitment Consultants, 5 Bream's Buildings, Chancery Lane, London EC4A 3DY. Tel: 0171-405-4161 (Fax: 0171 430-1140). Evenings/weekends: 0171-813-0255.

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THE NICHE IP FIRM

Intellectual property as an area of practice has been transformed during the past 20 years. In the 1970s no more than a handful of firms offered a serious capability in this field. Today, most commercial practices have at least some IP expertise, if only in the 'soft' areas of copyright and passing off. Competition for work has become intense.

At the same time there has been a transformation in the way the largest firms operate. During the 1980s, as these firms mushroomed in size, they incurred massively rising costs in both overheads and salaries. This forced up their fee levels, making them less competitive on price. It created an opening for leading IP lawyers - partners in the big commercial firms including heads of department - to leave their firms and set up on their own.

A number of prominent lawyers are establishing small IP practices, usually in their home towns outside the city centres. They keep their overheads low, and charge lower fees for their services. Many of their established clients, therefore, are following them, including major plc.

The success of these niche firms can be judged from their growing need for additional staff. Candidates most in demand are specialist IP lawyers with at least two years' experience in this field. More senior lawyers with their own client followings are also suitable. The quality of work is excellent, and salary levels are competitive with those in the larger firms.

Michael Chambers

INDUSTRY & BANKING *Sonya Rayner*

Commercial Assistant: South East International hi-tech company requires solicitor or barrister to advise on general commercial and contractual issues, as well as assisting with the drafting and editing of corporate literature.

Corporate Lawyer: South East Solicitor c 5 yrs' corporate experience to join small legal department of major engineering company. You will negotiate terms of acquisitions, disposals and jvs, working as part of the company's M&A team.

Oil Lawyer: South East Legal adviser with 5 yrs' ppe, and particular expertise in upstream joint operating agreements, sales and transportation contracts and licensing, to join legal dept of well-known international oil company.

LONDON & PROVINCES *London: David Jermyn, David Woolfson*

South: Helen Mills, Yasmin Hosain Midlands: Lauren Cochran

Litigation Partner: City Niche firm with surprisingly high-profile clients and steady growth over recent years seeks partner with part-following, £80k surplus caseload available.

International Tax: Central London Major commercial practice seeks 2-6 yrs qual sol for int tax advice to major corporate clients. Bars and chartered accountants are also encouraged to apply.

Shipping Litigation: City Up-and-coming niche shipping firm, seen as potentially serious competitor to the longer-established firms, seeks 2-3 yrs qual for 'dry' work.

Company/Commercial Partner: City Senior partner of small firm wishing to spend more time managing the practice seeks senior sol to take on some of his company/commercial work.

Litigation Partner/Designate: West End Dynamic firm with strong litigation reputation seeks to replace country-bound partner with 4 yr-plus qual. Existing caseload to take over.

Entertainment: Central London

Sol with at least 1 yr's ppe to join entertainment company as part of its business affairs team. Ideally, should have previous experience of the entertainment industry and of intellectual property law.

Commercial Lawyer: South East Sol with 1-2 yrs' general commercial exp to join legal dept of major plc. Work will be predominantly international and will involve considerable overseas travel. Construction exp an advantage.

Head of Legal: South East Solicitor or barrister with at least 15 yrs' commercial experience to head small legal dept of successful manufacturing company. Must have industry experience and sound commercial and business sense.

Intellectual Property: Central London

Highly successful practice seeks 2-4 yrs qual sol for licensing, franchising, contractual agreements etc.

Commercial Property to £250k: Bucks General practice in market town seeks experienced sol for varied work for commercial, developer clients.

Employments: South West London High calibre employment specialist c 1-3 yrs qual for cont and non-cont work for public sector clients.

Construction: Birmingham/Nottingham A number of openings for experienced pure non-cont construction sol to create partnership for themselves.

Legal Information Officer: Works Opportunity for organised person with IT skills (post a graduate legal librarian) to join national group. £20k.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

70-72, Abchurch Lane, EC4A 3DF
Tel: 0171 405 4161 Fax: 0171 430 1140

High achievers
does your profile match ours?

We are looking for like-minded professionals to continue the development of our practice.

Pensions Lawyers

- Experience in pensions law essential
- 1 year to 5 years PQE
- London based

Planning Lawyer

- 2 to 5 years PQE
- Planning experience essential; advocacy preferred
- Leeds based

Construction Lawyers

- 2 to 3 years PQE in a firm recognised for its construction litigation expertise
- Dealing with contentious matters
- Judgement and initiative essential
- Leeds based

Our profile? We are a young growing partnership with a strong commercial focus. With over 870 personnel, our success and reputation reflects the quality of our people and commitment to achieve.

For an informal discussion, please telephone Christopher Luke, our Advisor on 01242 253365 or write to him at The Swansford Consultancy, Whitfield House, 30 Imperial Square, Cheltenham Spa GL50 1RL. (Fax 01242 241421)

HAMMOND SUDDARDS
SOLICITORS

SCOTLAND

ENJOY THE HEAT
- HATE THE CITY?

Stock Exchange/Financial Services

We require a high calibre solicitor with a keen eye for detail and a passion for excellence. The successful candidate will have a minimum of 2-3 years experience in either or both of the following areas: listed securities (floatations, takeovers, mergers, capital raising) and FSA/SRO rulebooks.

IP

Our strong base of technology clients creates a further demand for a highly motivated solicitor with a minimum of 2-3 years experience in all areas of intellectual property. While the practice is primarily non-contentious, applications from candidates with contentious experience would be welcome.

Corporate Law

A vacancy exists for a solicitor with a minimum of 2 years general corporate experience. This is a challenging position offering a wide range of corporate transactions.

Professional Support Lawyer

A short-term appointment (six months) with the possibility of a subsequent part-time position to provide further support in reviewing and reorganising our Corporate Department's precedents and know-how database. The successful candidate is likely to have a minimum of 3 years relevant experience. Keyboard skills would be of assistance but are not essential. The position offers the scope for flexible working hours and/or working from home.

These positions offer the candidates the opportunity to join a successful team of lawyers in a superior working environment.

Apply in writing to:

Paul W Hally
Shepherd & Wedderburn WS
Saltaire Court
20 Castle Terrace
Edinburgh EH1 2ET

SHEPHERD &
WEDDERBURN WS



In-House

SOUTH Insurance - dealing with captive and life assurance. Relevant experience essential. Consumer Credit - to advise on impact on Financial Group's products. Contracts - to advise on / draft own purchase and product contracts of a Leading Lender.

Practice

LITIGATION Established practice seeks solicitor with 2-5 yrs PQE for defendant based litigation work for major insurance clients. PL / medical / professional negligence experience relevant.

FAMILY LAW Medium sized practice seeks partnership calibre solicitor 3-5 yrs PQE. Advocacy skills and member of Children Panel highly desirable.

PROPERTY Solicitor with minimum 3 yrs relevant PQE sought by large firm to handle Housing Association work.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY Thriving practice seeks solicitor with 1/3 yrs PQE to assist with a full range of commercial property work.

COMPANY COMMERCIAL City Solicitor practice seeks ambitious solicitor with 1-4 yrs PQE gained with medium/large City firm for range of high quality work.

Legal Recruitment

Legal Recruitment Consultants

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SOLICITOR

with at least 3 years' P.I. experience required for solicitors with long P.I. Dept. near London Bridge. You will be joining a hand-picked enthusiastic team dealing with a wide range of P.I. matters. CV's please to Miss J. Hensley, Stephens Miller, 201 Borough High Street, London SE1 1NL.

CV SERVICES

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LAWYERS

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VERSATILE COMMERCIAL LAWYER

c.£45,000-50,000 + BENEFITS

A major name in the leisure industry with significant interests in the brewing, pub, hotel and related distribution sectors, our plc Client has maintained its competitive edge throughout the recession and continues to increase its market share.

Crucial to the company's continued success is the establishment of a management centre of excellence at its West London headquarters. In setting this up the company has identified the need for a dynamic lawyer to act as company secretary and in-house legal adviser.

The position will suit a lawyer aged, ideally, 32-40 and will report directly to the Chairman. Tasks will include acting as secretary to the Main Board and Executive Board, responsibility for the company's pension funds, executive share option and share save schemes, company insurances and the management of external lawyers. Initiative and a creative approach to strategic issues are pre-requisites as the company will be looking to the successful candidate to take on increasing responsibility for all legal matters affecting its day to day affairs and long term plans. PC literacy is also important.

To reflect the importance of this new position, an attractive salary and benefits package will be offered.

Written applications, which will be treated in the strictest confidence, should be addressed to Jonathan Brenner at Zarak Macrae Brenner, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential Fax 071-247-5174. Internet e-mail jonathan@zmb.co.uk

ZMB

ZARAK
MACRAE
BRENNER

LONDON

HEAD OF BANKING

£200-285,000
International and highly commercial medium-sized firm seeks an experienced banking partner to lead its existing team of partners and associates. Potential involvement in management of the practice as a whole and considerable scope to consolidate clearly identified banking opportunities to win more work from top quality, long established clients. Bank based remuneration system that high performers are rewarded, avoiding the frustration of traditional lock-step. (Ref:0751)

PROJECT FINANCE

£100,000-150,000
Growing London office of pre-eminent international firm seeks banking lawyers with project finance experience to augment their project finance team. Candidates with 5-10 years' experience with a significant interest in this field will be considered but those with directly relevant experience will be preferred. The work is London based but will require travel and you will become involved in the commercial, as well as legal aspects of transactions from a very early stage. Senior candidates with a high profile within the banking sector should have their own contacts and support will be given to assist them. Excellent package and real long term prospect in fast growing office. (Ref:0257)

JUNIOR PROPERTY

£35,000
Commercially outgoing, bright and confident property lawyer sought by this City law firm. Candidates require at least 6 months' relevant experience and must have real enthusiasm for specialising in this field. You will join a friendly and close knit team where junior solicitors assume immediate responsibility, have genuine client contact with the freedom to develop your own style of working with partner support where necessary. (Ref:0915)

CONSTRUCTION LITIGATION

£100,000-150,000
National firm with excellent reputation in the construction field is seeking to recruit lawyers with between 2 and 6 years' experience to join its team throughout the UK. Candidates should have directly relevant experience, good academic and a sound training. The work environment is progressive and is likely to be attractive to candidates keen to widen their horizons. The firm will also consider senior construction lawyers with a proven track record for a partner designate role. (Ref:0461)

TO £135,000

The above represents a small selection of the vacancies presently registered with us. To find out more, please contact Andrew Russell, Lisa Hicks or Miranda Smyth (all qualified lawyers) on 071-377 9510 (071-622 6213 evenings/weekends) or write to us at Zarak Macrae Brenner, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 071-247 5174. Internet e-mail andrew@zmb.co.uk

CORPORATE FINANCE

£200-285,000
Outstanding opportunity for corporate finance partner at leading City law firm to develop and manage a new team in its rapidly expanding London office of a top UK law firm. Successful recruitment of other high profile partners from City practices has led to demand for provision of corporate services from the London office, which is projected to be a major profit centre for the firm. Partner single will be 30% and be supported by the opportunity to build a new department within a truly global and highly regarded law firm. (Ref:0554)

REINSURANCE

£35-45,000
Niche insurance practice, with a reputation for recruiting top quality practitioners from larger and longer established firms in this field, now seeks to grow its reinsurance team. Work comprises domestic and international claims, acting solely for company market clients working on policy limits, amounts of loss and reinsurance matters. Candidates require at least 2 years' relevant post-qualification experience and a highly commercial, unpretentious and energetic approach to doing business in a fast moving marketplace. Informal and highly supportive work environment with excellent career prospects. (Ref:0461)

PROPERTY LITIGATION

TO £42,000
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The above represents a small selection of the vacancies presently registered with us. To find out more, please contact Andrew Russell, Lisa Hicks or Miranda Smyth (all qualified lawyers) on 071-377 9510 (071-622 6213 evenings/weekends) or write to us at Zarak Macrae Brenner, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 071-247 5174. Internet e-mail andrew@zmb.co.uk

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- Transactional experience including M&As, joint ventures, debt and equity offerings (both public and private), privatisations, financial reorganisations, commercial loan syndications, and project finance transactions. Capital markets exposure would also be highly valuable.

- Strong contacts in the UK and European financial and business communities and the ambition to take a leading role in expanding the corporate finance and banking practice of the London office.
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A transportable book of business is attractive, however, the ability to create and maintain new business opportunities in the UK and Europe is a top priority.

The salary package is highly competitive, reflecting the importance of this appointment.

This assignment is being handled exclusively by Michael Page Legal.

Interested candidates should forward their curriculum vitae (including contact number and details of current salary and benefits package) to Sarah Gore BA LLB, Solicitor at Michael Page Legal, Page House, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LH, fax 0171 831 6662 or telephone her on 0171 831 2000.



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Please send detailed CV, together with a covering letter including current salary and day time telephone number to: Ms. A. Cuffe, Human Resources Manager, HEMPSONS Solicitors, 33 Henrietta Street, London WC2E 8NH.

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Further particulars can be obtained from the Secretary of the Appointments Committee for the Faculty of Law, The Old Synod Building, Mill Lane, Cambridge CB2 1RQ to whom applications, a curriculum vitae, and the names of two referees should be sent by 15 February 1995.

The University follows an equal opportunities policy.

Magistrates' Training Adviser Lord Chancellor's Department

Applications are invited for a Magistrates' Training Adviser to work in the Lord Chancellor's Department. The appointment, which will be made on the basis of a two-year contract, will take effect from the end of March 1995 or as soon as possible thereafter and will be based in central London.

Main duties will include advising the Lord Chancellor on the training of magistrates, and approving training schemes and events on his behalf. The postholder will be expected to liaise with the representative training bodies and to monitor training by visiting the training committees of the Magistrates' Courts Committees on a regular basis.

Applicants should possess a wide knowledge and understanding of the magistrates' courts service. The post requires negotiating and presentational

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Further details of the post are available from Geoffrey Norman (0171-210 2196). Application forms can be obtained from Heather Atkinson, Room 615, Travoy House, 30 Great Peter Street, London SW1P 2BY, telephone 0171-210 8667/8.

Completed applications should be returned no later than 28 February 1995.

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Applications will be treated in the strictest confidence

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Further details and application forms, returnable not later than 17 February 1995, from the Personnel Office, The University of Nottingham, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RD. Tel: 0115 951 5781. Please quote ref. SMN/004.

The University of Nottingham



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Contact Southern office. Ref: CL1192.

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A vacancy exists with both Associations.

For an information pack, please telephone our Consultants, Austin Knight, on 0171-439 5782 (24 hour answer service) quoting reference LEM. Closing date: 20th February 1995.

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Application forms and further particulars are available from Personnel Services, University of Aberdeen, Prospect Walk, Aberdeen AB9 1FD, telephone (01224) 272727 quoting the appropriate reference number. A 24-hour answering service is in operation. Closing date: 10 February 1995.

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Articles sought

by young, capable law graduates. 1,200-1,500 words. City of London School, Goldsmiths, LSE, Imperial College, City University, etc. Send articles to: The Editor, The Law Society, 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. Tel: 071 224 0791 for CV.

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A US Law firm based in the UK seeks a young, capable, enthusiastic and organized accountant/bookkeeper with experience in the field of taxation and company accounts. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day accounting and bookkeeping of the firm. The position offers excellent career prospects. Tel: 011 814 2222.

Wright ban deepens gloom over Highbury

Italy shocked by supporter's death

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

MILAN believed things would go on as normal. "Italian sport wants to say 'enough to violence,'" Mario Pescante, two Champions' League points after the Casino Salzburg goalkeeper had been

They may now face a further punishment from the Italian league for the crowd trouble. It is unclear whether the match, abandoned with the score at 0-0, will be replayed. Milan's mood for their European Super Cup first leg tie with Arsenal at Highbury tomorrow is difficult to predict.

A 19-year-old Milan supporter was arrested yesterday in connection with Spagnolo's death. Six others were arrested, serving up to 27 months in prison. Three of them were convicted of resisting arrest and insulting authorities and sentenced to probation of up to one year.


HOCKEY: The United States women's team levelled the three-match international series against Great Britain with a 2-0 victory at the Olympic training camp in San Diego. After a goalless first half, the home team struck twice in two minutes. Barbara Marois, the captain, scored from a penalty corner, and Laurel Martin got the second in similar fashion. Janet Jack, of Scotland, won her first Great Britain cap, along with Charlotte Merrett, the teenager from Wales. The decisive match will be played today.

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There is no doubt that the British Ice Hockey Association will be against this venture, however.

ST MORITZ: World Cup. Men: 1, Switzerland I (R Gostechi and G Aden) 2min 9.78sec; 2, Germany I (D Wisse and C Bertsch) 2:10.12; 3 Canada II (C Lox and S Baptiste) 2:10.17; 12, Great Britain I (M Tout

BEST DRAWS: Bristol City, Plymouth, Wycombe, Preston, B&H.
AWAYS: Crystal Palace, Port Vale, Brentford, Rotherham, Lincoln.

FIXED ODDS: Homes: Everton, Burnley, Birmingham, Wigan, Farnborough. Away: Crystal Palace, Port Vale, Lincoln. Draw: Plymouth, Preston, Bath.

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LEAMINGTON: P&O handicap championship: Quarter-finals: G Hamp bt J Mase 5-2; A Harrison bt G Hayward 5-4; M Beard bt

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DeFreitas cuts a dash in tale of the unexpected



(DeFreitas, Devon Malcolm and Chris Lewis) were born in Dominica, Jamaica and Guy-



Their partnership had reached 61 when Salisbury revived his own fortunes and those of his team with two wickets in nine balls. With the score at 300, Ganguly was fifth out, bowled for 25 while trying to force off the back foot, and Amre (43) misused a drive to short mid-wicket.

Herbert, centre, takes his bow at Benetton with Schumacher, in cockpit, and Verstappen

It is anticipated that Michael Her, of Benetton, will join the 1996, but, if he does not, Mansell may race for another year.

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TUESDAY JANUARY 31 1995

AMERICAN FOOTBALL 45

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DeFreitas and Malcolm light fuse as Atherton's side soars to Test victory

England give series kiss of life

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN ADELAIDE

ENGLAND may not win very often at cricket, but when they do, they win with a verve and style that takes the breath away. After Barbados last April and the Oval in August, England's first Test victory in Australia since 1986 was achieved here yesterday against apparently insuperable odds and with memorably irresistible cricket.

At the start of the final day of this fourth Test an England win was comfortably the outsider of three possible results. Logic suggested a draw, recent history an Australian win. Desperation, however, can be a great leveller. To keep the series alive and avoid the condemnation that would follow an empty tour, England had to win. The imperative inspired great deeds.

The last four England wickets added 108 runs in 18.5 overs, whereupon Australia, setting off confident of making 263 in 67 overs, lost eight wickets inside two hours. Despite gallantry on a grand scale from the ninth-wicket

John Woodcock 46
England A team chase win 46

pair, a wonderful match ended with 5.5 overs to spare and the Barny Army screamed onto the field in an accelerated conga.

This was the eleventh Test England have played in this country since retaining the Ashes at Melbourne in December, 1986. They have had their chances to win several, but taken none, and that they should end the sorry sequence now, with a team barely recognisable from that which began the tour, beggars belief as much as the manner of its execution.

The catalyst, just as it had been against South Africa in August, was spectacular batting from the tail, followed by awesomely quick bowling by Devon Malcolm. Phillip DeFreitas, whose partnership with Darren Gough shifted the balance at the Oval, this time went solo. He has never batted so well for so long in a Test and may never do so again. But a man could die happy after one innings this good.

DeFreitas, resuming on 20, added 68 off 57 balls. Exhorted by his captain "to be positive but selective" he took apart the man who, by common consent, has been the best bowler of the series, Craig McDermott, troubled by recurring stomach and knee problems, may not have been feeling his best when he began bowling. He felt a good deal worse once DeFreitas had finished with him. His three-over spell with the second new ball cost 41 runs, of which DeFreitas struck 22 in one over, rounded off by a pull over mid-wicket for six.

The tone had been set from the start of a session which recorded Test-best performances from DeFreitas with the bat and Mark Waugh with the ball. John Crawley completed his second half-century in successive Tests and moved so smoothly on to 71 that overconfidence was his downfall and he fell, like ten other



Overjoyed England fielders converge on Malcolm, left, who has just captured the final wicket by trapping McIntyre leg-before

batsmen in this bizarre game, to a misjudged pull. He also ricked his neck as his boot-studs snagged when he turned for a second run and after his dismissal took no further part.

A different type of injury topped up DeFreitas's adrenalin. McDermott hit him in the groin, doubling him up for some minutes. His response was controlled aggression of such class that one wonders

why it has always been beyond him before now.

Malcolm pumped himself up by hitting Shane Warne out of the ground. When the last wicket fell in the same over, Malcolm sprinted from the field. His eagerness was contagious, though at first impulsive. He chose the wrong end to bowl and, after one over labouring into the wind, asked to switch. Atherton agreed and

the results were devastating.

In the first over after lunch, taken at 16 without loss, Malcolm disturbed Mark Taylor with a well-directed bounce, taken on the glove in front of his face. Next over, Taylor chased at a wide ball and the reliable hands of Thorpe, at first ship, did the rest. Already, there was something familiar to the plot, and England recognised it. Maybe

Australia did, too. David Boon froze against his first ball, which was an involuntary bat before he had moved and Fraser removed him through a leg-side catch in the next over.

Malcolm was now in overdrive. Slater, unable to resist the hook, perished to a splendid catch by Tufnell at fine leg and, to the next ball, Steve Waugh, looking for his cus-

tomary welcome of a bouncer, was instead beaten for pace and bowled by one of full length.

Malcolm had taken three wickets for four runs in 12 balls. Until Sunday morning, his analysis for this series was a melancholy four for 343; in two bursts, he had now claimed six wickets for 16.

On days such as this, a captain can do no wrong. Mark Waugh was beginning to play with ease when Atherton brought on Tufnell. Waugh turned his first ball firmly off his hip and it hit Mike Gatting, at short leg, on the left boot before popping obligingly into his hands.

Chris Lewis was summoned from the Cathedral End and produced one of his best spells for England. Blewett, Warne and McDermott all fell to him, either side of tea, and if his finger-stabbing gesture to the latter was excessive, it also seemed to signal the end of the game.

Ian Healy, however, had other ideas and for the next 112 minutes he and Fleming stalled the England charge. Only eight overs remained when Lewis removed Fleming leg-before. Malcolm was recalled against the hapless McIntyre, an extraction that required only one ball, and England were left to celebrate a famous victory and regret, once again, that such cricket eludes them when a series is young and impressionable.

Reprimand for captain from match referee

FROM ALAN LEE

ENGLAND'S euphoria was mildly diluted last night when John Reid, the match referee, produced his charge sheet. The team sacrificed 15 per cent of its match fee for a slow over-rate, and Chris Lewis was fined £650 for an offensive gesture on taking McDermott's wicket.

The most significant of Reid's measures, however, was not financial. Michael Atherton, as the England captain, was reprimanded for having failed to ensure that "play is conducted within the spirit of the game". This finding relates to a shabby passage of cricket on Saturday, when England fell eight overs behind the statutory minimum over-rate. Reid, who might have taken similar action during the second Test, informed Atherton of his displeasure the following day. Yesterday, in his end-of-match statement, the matter became public.

Reid was arguably lenient in his assessment that England should be fined for a three-overs shortfall over the course of this match. They were actually 13 behind, but after concessions for the fall of wickets and breaks for drink, the figure was drastically reduced.

Chastened though he may be, Atherton was not allowing such disapproval to spoil his mood last night. Asked how he would be spending the three days before the final Test, in Perth, he said that the first thing he would be doing was getting drunk. As the team is spending today at a winery in the Barossa Valley, he considered it might be the second thing, too.

More seriously, Atherton lamented the consistency with which England spring into their potent form at the tail-end of series. "I would like to know why we can't do it at the start," he said. "I don't have an answer to it."

Having paid tribute to the strokeplay of DeFreitas, Atherton added: "Devon Malcolm got the real breakthrough. Without that, I don't think we could have won the match. It doesn't always work for him, but today, he had good rhythm, his follow-through was in place and he bowled really quickly."

Mark Taylor, the Australia captain, echoed those sentiments, though understandably with less relish, adding: "We played some poor shots, but give credit to England. They played good, positive cricket from the first ball of the day and, since Christmas, they have played the better cricket."

The total paying attendance on the peerless Adelaide ground was almost 90,000, and the revival of the series has revived the authorities in Perth, where crowds recently have been poor.

The shift in confidence means that Australia approach the game with the greater worries. Damien Fleming has been ruled out by a hamstring strain and McDermott's condition is also causing concern. Peter McIntyre has been dropped and Jo Angel and Brendon Julian, Western Australia fast bowlers, have been added.

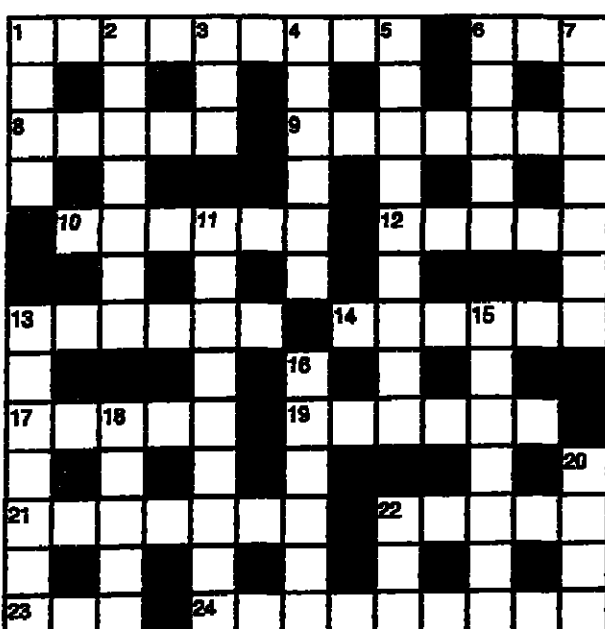
AUSTRALIA SQUAD: M A Taylor (captain), M J Slater, D C Boon, M E Waugh, S R Waugh, G S Blewett, J A Healy, B P Julien, S J Warne, J Angel, C J McDermott, G D McGrath.



Lewis's pointed gesture to McDermott proved costly

COMPLETE SCOREBOARD FROM ADELAIDE

ENGLAND: First Innings		M W Gatting b M E Waugh 0		M A Taylor lbw b Lewis 80		G S Blewett c Rhodes b Lewis 12	
G Gough c M Waugh b Fleming 47		G Thorpe c Warne b McDermott 88		D C Boon c Rhodes b DeFreitas 0		11 A Healy not out 51	
M A Atherton c M E Waugh 80		J P Crawley c and b M E Waugh 71		M E Waugh c Rhodes b Fraser 39		S R Waugh lbw b Lewis 2	
D Fleming 28		15 J Rhodes c Fleming b Warne 2		S R Waugh c Atherton b Lewis 102		C J McDermott c Rhodes b Lewis 0	
M W Gatting c S R Waugh 117		20 J Rhodes c Fleming b Warne 2		G S Blewett not out 12		D W Fleming lbw b Lewis 24	
P McIntyre 11		22 J Rhodes c Fleming b Warne 2		S R Waugh c Thorpe b McGrath 7		P E McIntyre lbw b Malcolm 0	
G P Thorpe c Taylor b Warne 28		27 J Rhodes c Fleming b Warne 2		D W Fleming c Rhodes b Malcolm 0		Extras (b 5, lb 5, nb 13) 21	
D Gooch 20		27 J Rhodes c Fleming b Warne 2		P E McIntyre b Malcolm 0		Total (81.1 overs, 274 runs) 159	
C Lewis c Blewett b McDermott 10		27 J Rhodes c Fleming b Warne 2		C J McDermott c Crawley b Fraser 5		FALL OF WICKETS: 1-17 (Slater 4, 2-22 (Slater 5), 3-22 (M E Waugh 0), 4-23 (M E Waugh 0), 5-24 (Blewett 3), 6-75 (Healy 7), 7-73 (Healy 10), 8-85 (Healy 10), 9-152 (Healy 48))	
15 Rhodes c Taylor b McDermott 6		27 J Rhodes c Fleming b Warne 2		P C R Tufnell not out 10		BOWLING: Malcolm 16.1-3-38-4 (nb 2: 1-0-0-0, 2-1-13-3, 3-2-13-3, 4-0-10-0, 5-1-11-1, 6-0-10-0, 7-0-10-0, 8-0-0-0, 9-0-0-0, 10-0-0-0, 11-0-0-0, 12-0-0-0, 13-0-0-0, 14-0-0-0, 15-0-0-0, 16-0-0-0, 17-0-0-0, 18-0-0-0, 19-0-0-0, 20-0-0-0, 21-0-0-0, 22-0-0-0, 23-0-0-0, 24-0-0-0, 25-0-0-0, 26-0-0-0, 27-0-0-0, 28-0-0-0, 29-0-0-0, 30-0-0-0)	
P DeFreitas c Blewett b McIntyre 21		27 J Rhodes c Fleming b Warne 2		P C R Tufnell not out 10		BOWLING: McDermott 27.5-6-2-2 (nb 1: 8-2-17-0, 2-0-11-1, 3-0-15-1, 4-0-15-1, 5-0-15-1, 6-0-15-1, 7-0-15-1, 8-0-15-1, 9-0-15-1, 10-0-15-1, 11-0-15-1, 12-0-15-1, 13-0-15-1, 14-0-15-1, 15-0-15-1, 16-0-15-1, 17-0-15-1, 18-0-15-1, 19-0-15-1, 20-0-15-1, 21-0-15-1, 22-0-15-1, 23-0-15-1, 24-0-15-1, 25-0-15-1, 26-0-15-1, 27-0-15-1, 28-0-15-1, 29-0-15-1, 30-0-15-1)	
A R C Fraser not out 7		27 J Rhodes c Fleming b Warne 2		Extras (b 6, lb 6) 14		Total (121.5 overs, 535 runs) 419	
D Gooch 0		27 J Rhodes c Fleming b Warne 2		Total (84.5 overs, 388 runs) 328		FALL OF WICKETS: 1-28 (Gough 11), 2-30 (Gough 15), 3-83 (Thorpe 23), 4-154 (Crawley 18), 5-169 (Crawley 23), 6-181 (Crawley 30), 7-270 (DeFreitas 48), 8-317 (DeFreitas 59), 9-317 (Malcolm 0)	
D Gooch 0		27 J Rhodes c Fleming b Warne 2		Extras (b 6, lb 6) 14		BOWLING: Malcolm 27.5-6-2-2 (nb 1: 8-2-17-0, 2-0-11-1, 3-0-15-1, 4-0-15-1, 5-0-15-1, 6-0-15-1, 7-0-15-1, 8-0-15-1, 9-0-15-1, 10-0-15-1, 11-0-15-1, 12-0-15-1, 13-0-15-1, 14-0-15-1, 15-0-15-1, 16-0-15-1, 17-0-15-1, 18-0-15-1, 19-0-15-1, 20-0-15-1, 21-0-15-1, 22-0-15-1, 23-0-15-1, 24-0-15-1, 25-0-15-1, 26-0-15-1, 27-0-15-1, 28-0-15-1, 29-0-15-1, 30-0-15-1)	
D Gooch 0		27 J Rhodes c Fleming b Warne 2		Extras (b 6, lb 6) 14		Total (121.5 overs, 535 runs) 419	
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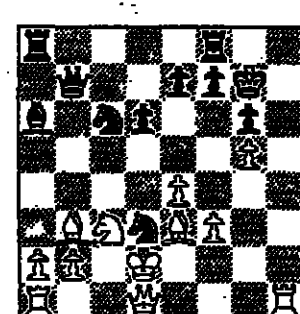
TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 383

- ACROSS
- Counter-attack; suppress (tears) (5,4)
 - Mealtime babywearer: top of dungarees (3)
 - Cathedral priest; church decree (5)
 - Amount of film shot (7)
 - Reviewer (6)
 - Glory, renown (5)
 - Common, unrefined (6)
 - Souped-up car (3,3)
 - Empty (space) (5)
 - Congenital (6)
 - Of the immediate surroundings (7)
 - Shaggy; dangerous (5)
 - Be obedient to (the line) (3)
 - Jewish place of worship (9)
- DOWN
- Confront (4)
 - Army officer; non-specific (7)
 - Thrash; go brown (3)
 - Have repercussions (on) (6)
 - Strike to the ground; reduce (price) (5,4)
 - Insipid (5)
 - Very fortunate (7)
 - Occasioning no gratitude (9)
 - Pulsating with vigorous activity (7)
 - Making another knot (in) (7)
 - Paradise Lost poet (6)
 - Walk at gentle pace (5)
 - Barrier; embankment against flood (4)
 - Embrace (3)
- SOLUTION TO NO 382
- ACROSS: 1 Tranquil, 13 Edeff, 15 Edeff, 19 Ebbd, 21 Exit, 22 Envisage, 23 Envisage, 24 Envisage.
- DOWN: 1 Traipse, 2 Augur, 3 Quail, 4 Augur, 5 Augur, 6 Augur, 7 Augur, 8 Augur, 9 Augur, 10 Augur, 11 Paragon, 12 Essence, 13 Essence, 14 Essence, 15 Essence, 16 Essence, 17 Essence, 18 Essence, 19 Essence, 20 Essence, 21 Essence, 22 Essence, 23 Essence, 24 Essence.

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Nguyen - Zuger, Moscow Olympiad, 1995. White has dangerous attacking chances along the open h-file. How did he now make use of these with a forcing combination?



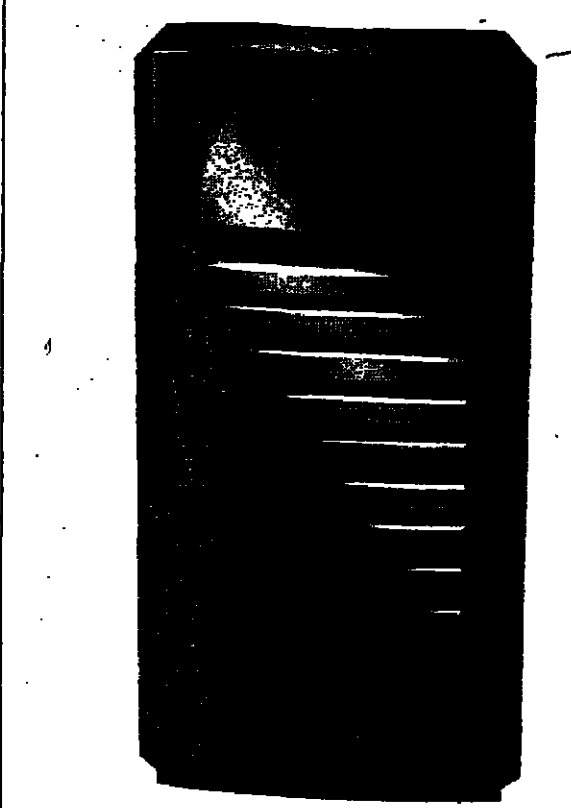
Solution, page 45
Raymond Keene, page 7

By Philip Howard

- BOOBYALLA
- An amiable idiot
 - A shrub
 - A prancing sail
- BOORCHE
- Sowing muscle
 - Ayam puff
 - A high muscle

- RANGO
- Mud
 - A lubricious dance
 - A right-angled spanner
- GENRO
- Elder statesman
 - A gender role
 - A nocturnal miscreant

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